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Jubilation as community wins battle over housing

By George Welch

JUBILANT campaigners are celebrating after winning a 21-month battle to save green space between their village and Didcot.

Campaign group Mind The Green Gap had fought plans for 170 homes on land between Didcot and East Hagbourne for more than a year and a half.

The protesters cheered as plans to build the homes east of New Road were rejected in May last year, but developers Grainger plc appealed the decision last summer.

The green gap hearing ended in January and last week an inspector revealed that Grainger's appeal had been dismissed due to 'character and substantial environmental harm' to the area.

Campaigners are delighted.

Andy Barmer, Mind the Green Gap's chairman, said: "The sense of relief and joy around the area is enormous. There are pats on the back and smiles all round.

"When we first heard about Grainger's plans many people said it was a done deal and that fighting against them was a waste of time. I am glad we disagreed and took on the system."

The protest group was set up in July 2015 to fight the plans, which were submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) in September 2015.

The plans were for homes on land east of New Road, which joins Didcot and East Hagbourne, by the Didcot Community Allotment site.

Residents celebrate victory

A report published ahead of last year's meeting by SODC officers recommended approval.

On behalf of the Secretary of State, inspector Katie Child, who visited the site in January, said in her appeal decision that the site "is a valued landscape" and noted its importance as "the last remaining notable countryside break between Didcot and East Hagbourne adjoining New Road".

Publishing her decision on Tuesday last week, she added: "The appeal site possesses notable perceptual, scenic and representative qualities, which elevate it above mere countryside."

In summary she said: "Overall the substantial environmental harm arising from increased coalescence and to the character and setting of Didcot and East Hagbourne leads me to conclude that the adverse effects of the proposal would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits found."

Having saved the green gap, Mr Barmer admitted they have learnt "a lot as a community".

This, he said, included: "How to work together – it's not easy. How to stand up and be heard. How democracy is not just about voting; it's about rolling up your sleeves and getting involved.

"It is not just winning this appeal that is important, it is what we have learnt along the way. It feels good."

Mayor of Didcot Steve Connel said: "Because Didcot is expected to grow at a phenomenal rate for the foreseeable future it is becoming more and more important that we help protect our neighbours.

"I actually led the Didcot town council planning meetings around this subject and much like the council's position on Ladygrove Park we were clear in our statement of refusal on two seperate occasions."

John Beresford, development director at Grainger plc, said the devel-

• Continues on page 5

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ACCOUNTANCY

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	START DATE	START TIME	END TIME	CAMPUS	DAY	WEEKS	FEE	REDUCED FEE*
BSKN001P	Bookkeeping Level 1	02/05/2017	09:00	16:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	TUE -THU	1	£99.00	n/a
BSKN003P	Bookkeeping Level 2	09/05/2017	09:00	16:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	TUE-THU	1	£99.00	n/a

ART, DESIGN & CREATIVE

PCKM213P	Life drawing	01/04/2017	10:00	16:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	SAT	1	£41.00	FREE
PCRM317P	Upholstery - mixed ability	25/04/2017	10:00	15:00	Stewart Hall, Wallingford	TUE	3	£71.00	£42.60
PCXM194P	Drawing and painting - independent project	25/04/2017	09:45	12:45	N.O.A. Com. Centre, Summertown	TUE	5	£78.00	£46.80
ZCRN012P	Drawing and painting - mixed ability	25/04/2017	14:00	16:00	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	TUE	10	£104.00	£94.00
ZCRN012P	Drawing and painting - mixed ability	25/04/2017	14:00	16:00	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	TUE	10	£104.00	£66.40
PCGM198P	Drawing and painting - mixed ability	26/04/2017	09:45	12:15	Grove Adult Learning	WED	8	£104.00	£62.40
PCRN004P	Printmaking - mixed ability	26/04/2017	19:00	21:00	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	WED	10	£134.00	£96.40
PCRN005P	Creative writing	26/04/2017	19:00	21:00	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	WED	5	£47.00	£41.00
PCRN006P	Guitar - beginners	27/04/2017	09:45	11:30	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	THU	10	£104.00	£66.40
PCGN101P	Pottery - mixed ability	27/04/2017	10:00	12:00	Grove Adult Learning	THU	10	£124.00	£86.40
PCRN001P	Scrapbooking	27/04/2017	14:00	16:30	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	THU	5	£75.00	£45.00
PCGM186P	Drawing and painting - beginners	27/04/2017	18:45	21:15	Grove Adult Learning	THU	8	£104.00	£66.40
PCRN002P	Acrylic painting	27/04/2017	19:00	21:00	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	THU	10	£105.00	£67.00
PCAN075P	Pottery - mixed ability	02/05/2017	13:30	16:30	Abingdon Wellbeing Centre	TUE	8	£148.00	£103.20
PCBM228P	Portrait drawing - beginners and improvers	02/05/2017	14:30	16:30	Glyme Hall, Chipping Norton	TUE	10	£134.00	£80.40
PCKN169P	Sewing - for the home	02/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	TUE	10	£94.00	£56.40
PCGM328P	Upholstery - mixed ability	02/05/2017	19:30	21:30	Chiltern Edge School, Didcot	TUE	10	£94.00	£56.40
PCKM208P	Drawing on - improvers	03/05/2017	13:00	15:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	WED	10	£104.00	£62.40
PCXM203P	Drawing and watercolour - improvers	03/05/2017	14:00	16:00	Oxford Adult Learning Cowley	WED	9	£94.00	£60.00
PCKM207P	Drawing from scratch - beginners and improvers	03/05/2017	16:00	18:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	WED	10	£104.00	£62.40
PCRM155P	Pottery - mixed ability	03/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Berinsfield Adult Learning	WED	9	£112.00	£78.00
PCXM140P	Jewellery with silver - mixed ability	03/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Cheney School, Oxford	WED	10	£124.00	£86.40
PCXM224P	Oil painting - mixed ability	03/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Cheney School, Oxford	WED	9	£94.00	£60.00
PCRM174P	Drawing and painting - mixed ability	04/05/2017	09:30	11:30	Didcot Civic Hall	THU	9	£94.00	£60.00
PCAN166P	Sewing - machine embroidery	04/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Abingdon Campus	THU	10	£94.00	£56.40
PCKN027P	Creative writing	04/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	THU	8	£75.00	£45.00
PCXM273P	Web design - beginners	04/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Oxford Adult Learning, Cowley	THU	9	£85.00	£51.00
PCRM196P	Drawing and painting - mixed ability	08/05/2017	14:00	16:00	Chilton Village Hall, Didcot	MON	9	£85.00	£51.00
PCAN272P	Pottery - mixed ability	08/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Abingdon Wellbeing Centre	MON	8	£148.00	£103.20

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COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	START DATE	START TIME	END TIME	CAMPUS	DAY	WEEKS	FEE	REDUCED FEE*
PCXM231P	Portrait drawing - mixed ability	08/05/2017	13:30	15:30	N.O.A. Com. Centre, Summertown	MON	9	£121.00	£87.00
PCRM196P	Drawing and painting - mixed ability	08/05/2017	14:00	16:00	Chilton Village Hall, Didcot	MON	9	£94.00	£60.00
PCAN271P	Introduction to web graphics	08/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Abingdon Campus	MON	8	£76.00	£45.60
PCAN272P	Pottery - mixed ability	08/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Abingdon Wellbeing Centre	MON	8	£107.00	£73.80
PCXM170P	Stained glass - mixed ability	08/05/2017	19:00	21:15	Cheney School, Oxford	MON	9	£115.00	£77.00
PCXM193P	Drawing and painting - individual project work	08/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Cheney School, Oxford	MON	5	£52.00	£31.20
PCRM200P	Drawing and watercolour - beginners	08/05/2017	19:30	21:30	Didcot Civic Hall	MON	9	£94.00	£60.00
PCKN066P	Exploring a limited palette – mixed ability	17/05/2017	09:45	12:30	Kidlington Adult Learning	WED	4	£58.00	£37.20
PCAN191P	Sewing - how to use your overlocker/serger	10/06/2017	10:00	16:00	Abingdon Campus	SAT	1	£41.00	£24.60
PCAM161P	Stained glass - workshop - mixed ability	10/06/2017	10:00	17:00	Abingdon Campus	SAT & SUN	1	£108.00	£70.40

BUSINESS

BSAN107P	ILM Award in Leadership and Management Level 7	02/05/2017	09:30	16:30	Abingdon Campus	TUE-THU	1	£1,175.00	n/a
XSAM300P	ILM Award in Leadership and Management Level 3	18/05/2017	13:30	16:30	Abingdon Campus	THU	4	£299.00	n/a

COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES

ZCKM031P	Learn how to be a life coach	27/04/2017	19:00	21:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	THU	10	£94.00	£56.40
ZCXN227P	Meditation and mindfulness	06/05/2017	10:00	13:00	Oxford Adult Learning, Cowley	SAT	1	£20.00	£12.00
ZCAN223P	Meditation and art	08/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Abingdon Campus	MON	3	£28.00	£16.80
ZCXN228P	Meditation and mindfulness	18/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Oxford Adult Learning, Cowley	THU	5	£47.00	£28.20
ZCXN004P	Alexander technique - introduction	20/05/2017	10:00	13:00	Oxford Adult Learning, Cowley	SAT	2	£41.00	£24.60

CONSTRUCTION & DIY

MSWN004P	Plumbing - an introduction	24/04/2017	09:00	16:30	Witney Campus	MON	1	£90.00	n/a
MSWN108P	Kitchen fitting - an introduction	24/04/2017	09:00	16:30	Witney Campus	MON	1	£90.00	n/a
MSWN002P	Plumbing - beginners	24/04/2017	18:00	21:00	Witney Campus	MON	8	£204.00	n/a
MSWN106P	Carpentry - beginners	25/04/2017	18:00	21:00	Witney Campus	TUE	8	£204.00	n/a
PCRM281P	Plumbing - beginners	02/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Berinsfield Adult Learning	TUE	10	£104.00	£62.40
PCRM284P	Plumbing- improvers	04/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Berinsfield Adult Learning	THU	10	£104.00	£62.40

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For more course listings on subjects turn to pages 30 and 31.

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Police officers are briefed before this week's raids

Police arrest seven men after series of raids over 'child sex'

SEVEN men were arrested after more than 100 police officers stormed 10 homes in a series of raids in relation to alleged child sex offences.

About 120 Thames Valley Police officers were deployed to the Banbury properties on Tuesday morning while another home in Birmingham was raided.

Following the arrests, officers confirmed the offences relate to three female victims in Banbury between 2008 and 2015.

The force said the men who were arrested are aged between 21 and 42, and are currently in custody.

No other details have been released at this point.

Local police area commander for Banbury, Supt Kath Lowe, said: "The nature of these arrests may appear concerning and I understand that people may have questions about them.

"Because this is an ongoing investigation, we will not be able to provide all the information straight away, but we will keep the community updated when we can.

"Tackling child sexual exploitation, both non-recent and current, remains an absolute priority for Thames Valley Police and this complex investigation and arrests demonstrate this."

There will be more officers on the streets following the raids and people are being urged to speak to them with any concerns.

Det Supt Paul Hayles, head of force CID, said the warrants were executed as part of Operation Nautical.

He added: "This is a complex investigation into non-recent child sexual exploitation in Banbury which has been undertaken by Thames Valley Police force CID.

"Following the arrests we are continuing to work with our partners to safeguard and support the victims."

If anyone has any concerns about offences relating to child sexual exploitation, especially if they are a victim or know one, they are urged to call 101.

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Chief: we'll review our security on terror risk

By Eva Astreinidou

THAMES Valley Police is reviewing all security across the area in the wake of last week's terror attack in Westminster.

Chief constable Francis Habgood, pictured, extended the force's sympathies to those who lost their lives and were affected by the events in London in which four people, including a Metropolitan Police officer, were killed.

He issued a statement on Wednesday evening after the attacks, saying: "On behalf of all my colleagues in Thames Valley Police I offer my sympathies to all those affected by the serious events in London today.

"I want to assure the people of Thames Valley that Thames Valley Police and its partners will be reviewing all security in light of today's incident.

"Although I think it is important to stress that there is no specific intelligence suggesting an imminent threat to Thames Valley, we will continue to review our deployments and take all possible steps to keep people safe.

"It is also incredibly important at times like this that communities come together and support each other. Should anyone have any concerns or see anything suspicious I would urge them to report it immediately."

The incident began just after 2.30pm when the attacker drove a grey Hyundai i40 across Westminster Bridge, hitting pedestrians along the way.

He then sped off and crashed into railings outside Parliament.

Armed with two knives, he got out of the vehicle and entered the grounds of the Palace of Westminster, where he stabbed PC Keith Palmer, a member of the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Squad.

The knifeman was then shot dead by armed police.

Parliament was put into lockdown and MPs, staff and visitors were kept inside for several hours.

All six of Oxfordshire's MPs were in the House of Commons at the time.

After the incident, Nicola Blackwood, MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, tweeted: "Leaving #Parliament tonight my thanks go to every police officer still keeping us safe after one of their own gave his life to protect us."

Chief constable of Thames Valley Police, Francis Habgood

Ed Vaizey, MP for Didcot and Wantage, said: "So awful to hear policeman has died doing his job keeping people in Parliament safe – so awful."

Former Prime Minister and Witney MP David Cameron took to Twitter to add his sympathies.

He tweeted: "My thoughts with the families of those injured and killed. Those seeking to attack our democracy with these barbarous methods will never win."

In the aftermath, the Met confirmed that 29 people were being treated in hospital with some suffering 'catastrophic injuries', and seven people in critical condition.

The three other people killed were named as Aysha Frade, 44, who worked at a college; Kurt Cochran, 54, on holiday in London with his wife and former window cleaner Leslie Rhodes, 75 – all three died as a result of being hit by the car on Westminster Bridge.

The national threat level remains at severe, as it has been since October 2014.

To report any suspicious behaviour or activity contact the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321 or in an emergency call 999.

Work on £50m expansion of shopping centre set for May

CONSTRUCTION on the highly anticipated £50 million expansion of a shopping centre is to begin in May.

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and developers Hammerson announced last week the pair had agreed a 250-year lease for phase two at Didcot's Orchard Centre to pave the way for up to 21 shops and seven cafes and restaurants.

Construction work on the expansion will begin in May after the pedestrianised part of Station Road is transformed into a new bus route – this access has to be completed before retail expansion takes place.

With a delay in the original plans, work on the new bus route started on January 30 and, eight weeks in, is expected to run up to May 5.

Major names already signed up for the 95,000 sq ft extension include M&S Food Hall, H&M, River Island and TK Maxx, as well as coffee house giants Costa Coffee and Starbucks.

The next phase will also feature new public areas and an additional 191 car parking spaces.

The shops, restaurants and cafes are expected to open in spring 2018.

Artist's impression of the new shopping centre expansion

SODC said the expansion of the Orchard Centre is a "significant milestone" for the future growth of Didcot town centre, as part of wider plans to transform Didcot into a garden town and deliver 20,000 new jobs and 15,000 new homes over the next 20 years.

Cllr John Cotton, leader of SODC, said the new shopping centre would attract more visitors and potential investors to the town.

He said: "This is fantastic news for residents and visitors to Didcot.

"It's vital that we have a town centre that meets the needs of the town's growing population and supports the wider Science Vale and Didcot garden town.

"The expanded site will provide a significantly improved shopping area, helping to attract more visitors and potential investors to the town.

"We have worked very hard to ensure this development can take place and I'm delighted that we've now signed the lease agreement with Hammerson."

Andrew Berger-North, director at Hammerson, added: "We're delighted to be able to complete our agreement with SODC. The expansion of the Orchard Centre is an important project for us and one which we look forward to seeing come to fruition."

A fly-through video showing what shoppers can look forward to can be viewed at tinyurl.com/n5u6ysz

News Bites

Recognise him?

DIDCOT: Police have released this e-fit image of a man officers would like to speak to in connection with an attempted distraction burglary in Didcot.

Early afternoon on March 9 the victim, in his sixties, was at home in Abbott Close when two men knocked at his door.

They said they were investigating water issues and needed to bring a skip on to the victim's front garden. They told the man he would need to pay them £4,500 cash.

The victim believes that while he went into the back garden with one of the men, the other entered his home and looked inside one of his cupboards.

Nothing was stolen during the incident, police said.

Call for opinions

LONG WITTENHAM: Villagers are being asked for their views on plans by the parish council to develop a community hub that would include a new school, pre-school and village hall.

Tonight's meeting to discuss the proposals starts at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Developer 'disappointed'

Continued from front page

opers are "disappointed and surprised" at the appeal dismissal.

He said: "Didcot has long been identified for social and economic growth and we believe that our site is one of a number which could aid in delivering this growth, while providing a range of housing, particularly for those in housing need.

"The pressures of delivering housing to meet both demand and housing need were not disputed by any party at the appeal, and we will review and reflect on the decision before discussing with our advisors."

"Best Established Business in The Best of Didcot" community award nominee for 2016.

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Firm that leaked sewage into Thames fined a record £20m

By George Welch

A record fine of £20m was imposed on Thames Water for the pollution of several sites including Henley Pictures: Environment Agency

UTILITY company Thames Water has been fined a record £20.4m after leaking nearly two billion litres of untreated sewerage into the River Thames.

The prosecution featured six separate cases – which caused widespread, repeated, sustained and avoidable pollution at a number of sites from 2012 to 2014 – in one hearing at Aylesbury Crown Court on Wednesday last week.

It is the biggest freshwater pollution case in the Environment Agency's (EA) 20-year history and involved treatment works at Didcot and Henley as well as a large sewerage pumping system in Littlemore in Oxford.

Spills also occurred at treatment works in Aylesbury, Little Marlow and Arborfield.

The total figures found by the judge included 1.9 billion litres of 'untreated' sewerage and 4.2 billion litres of 'treated and inadequately treated' sewerage to the Thames or its tributaries.

Thames Water's repeated illegal leaking of sewage into the river and its tributaries resulted in major environmental damage including visible sewage along 14km of the river and the death of birds, fish and invertebrates, the EA said.

Henley MP John Howell said the prosecution was "right and proper" but there "should be no triumphalism in the outcome".

The sewage treatment works in the town polluted the River Thames via the Fawley Court Stream between May 2013 and June 2014, resulting in the death of fish and a detrimental and long term impact on Temple Island Meadows, a site of special scientific interest, the EA said.

Mr Howell said the reports on the incidents "make depressing reading" but that he is "pleased" Thames Water has promised a 'substantial investment' into wildlife projects.

The Didcot works polluted the Moor Ditch tributary in April 2013. The contamination was spotted by a cyclist who saw a black cloud of polluted water containing toilet roll, sanitary towels and other solids.

Judge Francis Sheridan condemned the "disgraceful conduct" of Thames Water, which he said was "entirely foreseeable and preventable".

It was "a very dark period in the history of Thames Water" who demonstrated "scant regard for the law, with dreadful results for people who live in the area," he added.

In a statement, Thames Water's CEO, Steve Robinson, who was appointed in September 2016, said: "We deeply regret each of these incidents at six of our sites during the period 2012-14.

"Since then we've reviewed how we do things at all levels and made a number of key changes.

"As a result, our performance has significantly improved.

"We understand our huge responsibilities to the environment, have learned from these serious events, and continue to invest at the rate of around £20 million a week on continually improving our service to customers and the environment."

The utility firm is to hold open days at six sites later this year to display their improvements to the public and has set aside £1.5 million for projects to improve the river, its wildlife and surrounding environment.

Helicopter 'spiralled to the ground'

TWO men remarkably escaped virtually unhurt after crashing a helicopter in south Oxfordshire.

The aircraft came down near The Warren in Mapledurham, 12 miles south of Wallingford, at about 5.50pm on Friday.

South Central Ambulance Service confirmed two men sustained minor injuries and did not require hospital treatment.

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch has since confirmed it is investigating the crash.

Eyewitness Luke Howroyd said he saw the helicopter spin out of control before he lost sight of the spiralling aircraft and heard the crash.

Jobs go as shoe chain closes

SEVEN staff are to lose their jobs after it was announced the Oxford branch of Jones Bootmaker is to shut.

The Queen Street store is one of 25 shops to close immediately at the cost of around 262 jobs after Endless LLP bought the beleaguered footwear chain out of administration.

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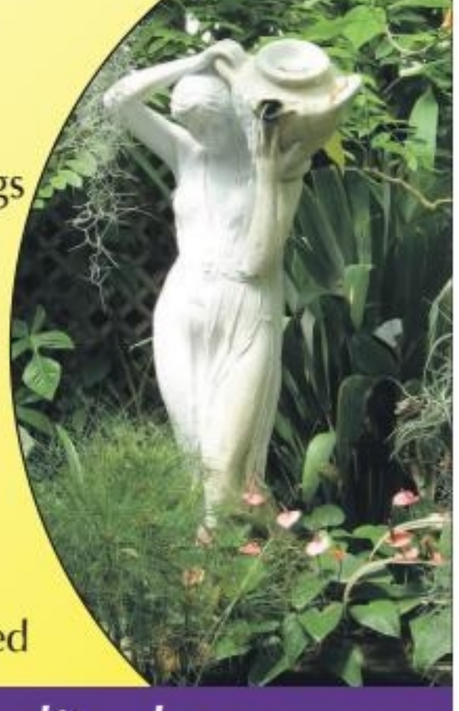

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The dragon, below right, gets to work patching up the county's potholes

Enter the 'dragon'

Fire-breathing new pothole patcher is roaring into action

By George Welch

IT may be a few weeks until St George's Day but keep your eyes open for a 'dragon' on the county's roads.

County council chiefs have recruited the help of their very own 'fire-breathing' machine to fix potholes.

Over the last year, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has shared a pothole fixer with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough councils but now it has its own.

The dragon – a Swedish pothole patcher – earned its nickname due to the fire-emitting nozzle it uses to dry out potholes.

This means Oxfordshire's roads will soon echo to the sound of a dragon's roar as the team responsible for fixing them took delivery of the machine last week.

After a successful introduction of the first machine in 2015, Skanska, OCC's highways contractor, will now put the new dragon to work on the county's rural routes to blaze a trail in the fight against holes in the roads.

The original machine was shared with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough councils, but the new one – five times faster than traditional methods – will be dedicated just to Oxfordshire roads.

It is nicknamed the dragon because it breathes fire to de-ice and dry out the road surface enabling work all year round.

The area is then cleaned with compressed air and sealed with a stone mix and hot bitumen emulsion.

With the pothole gone in two minutes, the patcher can move on to the next repair.

County councillor David Nimmo Smith, cabinet member for the environment, said: "The dragon can do more work for the money. It is also safer as it is operated from the vehicle's cabin and we found that it was well suited to Oxfordshire's rural roads. Since 2015, it has made 5,000 repairs to potholes and larger patches across Oxfordshire."

Last year, the pothole patching machine won the Highways Industry Project of the Year category at the Highways Magazine Excellence Awards.

The original dragon patcher has been working hard over 2016 as it fixed 29,779 potholes across Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Oxfordshire.

In November last year the Department for Transport announced a £70m fund to fix potholes across the country and revealed Oxfordshire would benefit from £1,315,000 – enough to fix almost 25,000 potholes.

Settlement reached in buses dispute

A LONG-RUNNING dispute between Oxford Bus Company and its workers looks to have ended after a settlement agreement was reached.

Crowds of disgruntled workers lined the streets on March 2 and 6 over a dispute regarding Christmas bank holiday pay before two further strike dates for March 17 and 24 were 'suspended' following 'positive' talks between the bus company and Unite.

But on Tuesday, the Oxford Bus Company and Unite, the country's largest union, announced the pair had reached an agreement.

A pay deal for the year, starting on November 1 last year, and a lump sum to settle 2016 Christmas working issues were hammered out after talks under the supervision of the conciliation service, Acas.

The details of the package are not being disclosed.

Phil Southall, managing director of Oxford Bus Company, said "We're pleased to say that after a series of constructive meetings, we have made a pay offer that has been accepted by the majority of Unite's members.

"We look forward to returning to the regular, constructive dialogue with Unite we've enjoyed in the past, so that we can continue to deliver the quality bus services the people of Oxford have come to expect."

Unite has nearly 450 members at the company.

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War Horse set to wow with tales of heroism

WAR Horse is cantering over to Oxford ready to wow audiences with its unique puppet choreography and equine theatrics just in time for Christmas.

The National Theatre's acclaimed production, based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, will premiere at the New Theatre in Oxford on December 13, and run until January 6, 2018.

It is part of a UK tour that will coincide with the Centenary commemorations of the end of the First World War.

On Wednesday last week, Joey – the life-size equine puppet used in the production and star of the show – made a special appearance at Oxford University's Bodleian Library.

Kash Bennett, the producer of War Horse, said: "We hope that today, with Joey's appearances in the city, we can bring the people of Oxfordshire a taste of the theatrical magic and artistry audiences can look forward to with this very special show."

Dean Stewart, general manager at the New Theatre, said: "The reaction from our audience has been overwhelming and tickets have been cantering out the door."

War Horse has enjoyed success worldwide, and was adapted into a film by Steven Spielberg in 2012.

Joey the puppet was taken around the city and stopped off at the Radcliffe Camera, far left Pictures: Stuart Harrison Photography

Leaders await 'one council' decision

By Eva Astreinidou

COUNCIL leaders are awaiting a final decision after the 'significant' proposals for a single council for Oxfordshire were submitted to Government.

A joint statement sent out on March 23 confirmed the proposals had been sent to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, leader of Oxfordshire County Council, Cllr Matthew Barber, leader of Vale of White Horse District Council and Cllr John Cotton, leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, issued the statement that read: "Our three councils have listened to the views of residents, businesses and other organisations across Oxfordshire and worked hard to address any concerns in the final bid.

"This is a significant moment for us and for the communities of Oxfordshire, who under a new single council will receive better, simpler joined up services, saving taxpayers millions of pounds each year and ensuring good quality services for generations to come.

"We believe local government reorganisation is vital to protect council services as central government funding is reduced, and to secure the investment in infrastructure needed to support sustainable economic growth in Oxfordshire."

They added: "Work is already under way to ensure all six councils work together effectively on delivering a new council for Oxfordshire in 2019."

A final decision is expected later this year.

As a stand against the unitary bid, Oxfordshire Green Party leader David Williams ripped up the proposals outside county hall on Monday last week.

He said: "The Greens have always been against this idea of one distant massive council as being profoundly undemocratic removed as it is from the various communities that make up Oxfordshire.

"Much has been made of a claimed £22 million in savings a year if a single unitary council is created for Oxfordshire. However, this ignores 'start-up' costs which will be considerable.

"The county has cut out £300million spending over the past six years: nobody believes they will spend that on services."

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Village given £1m to boost regeneration

SOUTH Oxfordshire village Berinsfield is to receive more than £1million in government funding to boost the area's regeneration.

More than 100 housing estates across the country will benefit from a significant investment to kick-start their regeneration, the Communities Secretary Sajid Javid announced last week.

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) was awarded £995,000 to boost the Berinsfield regeneration project, while SOHA, which owns many properties in Berinsfield, has also been awarded £98,380.

The news follows council engagement with the community as part of the Berinsfield Community Investment Scheme, which is involving residents in how the community develops.

The main aim is to find a balance between the needs for new homes and creating a sustainable community with supporting infrastructure and facilities for current and future residents, SODC said.

SODC leader Cllr John Cotton, said: "This is fantastic news for Berinsfield. This funding is a major boost for the regeneration project and for everyone's ambitions for the area. We've been working very positively with the local community to help ensure we can meet the needs for existing and future residents."

Hundreds join march through London to oppose leaving EU

By George Welch

SEVERAL hundred people from Oxfordshire travelled to London to take part in a huge anti-Brexit march on Saturday.

As many as 100,000 people reportedly attended the rally to mark the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome being signed, which established the European Economic Community, and yesterday's triggering of Article 50.

Campaigners from across the country marched from Park Lane to Parliament Square to demand Britain remain in the European Union.

Oxford for Europe, which praised the "vibrant, peaceful and passionate" atmosphere, said: "Saturday's march, which was far bigger than had been expected, indicated the growing strength of feeling in Oxford and the whole country that Article 50 may not be the end of the Brexit story.

"People may yet find reason to change its mind.

"Over the period, Oxford for Europe and fellow campaigners will continue to press local MPs Nicola Blackwood and Andrew Smith to pay attention to their voters."

Pro-Europe campaigners make their feelings felt during Saturday's march through London
Picture: Oxford for Europe

A variety of speakers had their say in front of the masses, including Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron, poet Salena Godden and actor Patrick Stewart.

Oxford's Sue Wilson spoke on behalf of British expatriate citizens in Spain.

Oxford for Europe was joined by other representatives from the county, including European Movement (Oxford region), Oxford New Europeans, Oxfordshire Green Party, Oxfordshire Liberal Democrats and the Oxford Labour Party.

Leader of Oxford City Council, Cllr John Tanner, said: "Leaving Europe could push Oxford's car industry, university research and hospital staffing off a cliff.

"Oxford Labour is campaigning for as close links as possible with our European sisters and brothers after Brexit."

But UKIP Oxford were critical of the march. A spokesperson said: "It's nice to see Oxford's students and industrious middle classes taking time out of their busy schedules and patting each other on the back to travel all the way to London to take part in collective display of virtue signalling.

"A majority voted in a free and fair referendum to leave the European Union and so it is only right that Theresa May seeks to enact the wishes of the British people."

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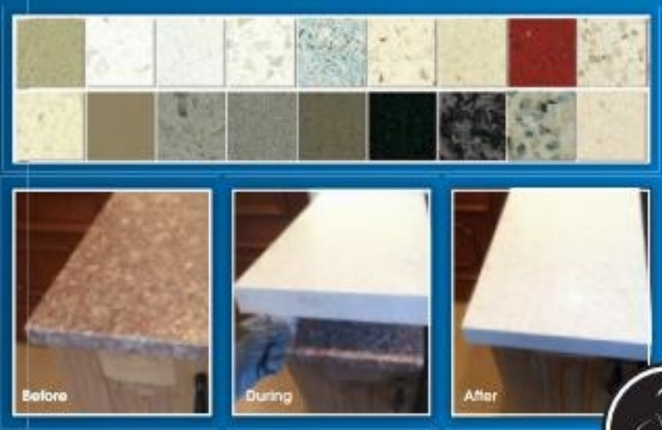

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Dad's effort a runaway success for our charity

By George Welch

EVEN a back injury couldn't stop a Witney man from conquering his quest of completing a half marathon this month in aid of his favourite charity – and our charity of the year.

Dad-of-three Matthew Hambridge was determined to get round the gruelling 13.1 miles Reading Half Marathon course, which started at Green Park and finished at the Madejski Stadium, and in doing so raised more than £200 for Play2Give (P2G).

Matt, 35, who completed the arduous run in 2 hours 8 minutes and 3 seconds, said: "Tough run was the Reading half marathon, especially when I got to mile 10.

"The legs were really tired but the thought of everyone who sponsored me and seeing lots of other runners working so hard got me to the end.

"What also spurred me on to cross that finish line was the visions of all the poorly children in the hospital that all the money I've helped raise will benefit. Being a dad of three the children's hospital is something close to my heart, knowing that we have such an amazing facility on our doorstep and that it should never be taken for granted as no-one knows when they may need to use it.

"For me, supporting P2G is a no-brainer, it's my favourite cause, [founder] Andy Baker and the team do incredible work tirelessly all year round and it's important we continue to support them so they can keep up their great work for children in hospital and so many other good causes locally."

Matt, who works at Cottsway Housing Association in Witney, has supported P2G for many years after taking part in a football tournament in 2009.

It was then when he became inspired to help Andy and the team raise funds for various local causes, in particular the Children's Hospital at the John Radcliffe Hospital. Founder Andy, 28, who suffered brain injuries at birth and sustained a head injury aged eight after being knocked over in the playground at school, welcomed Matt's effort and support.

He said: "Matt's support to P2G over the years has been nothing short of wonderful.

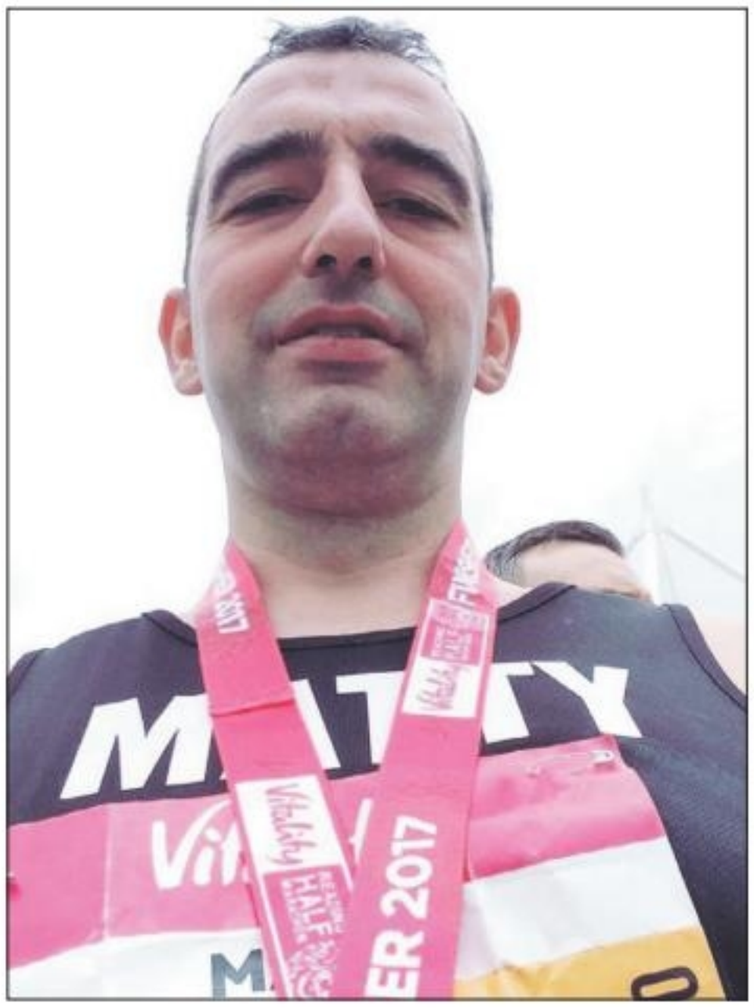
"His enthusiasm and dedication has been hugely admirable.

"With Matt being a dad himself he knows only too well how important it is to raise funds for such a fantastic facility as the Children's Hospital.

"Matt has really thrown himself into fundraising for P2G with many runs and other ways and it's great to see he continues to be inspired to keep on giving to a cause that raises money to stay locally."

This year marks P2G's 10th anniversary and Andy is hoping to mark the occasion by raising £10k for P2G's main charities – Oxford Children's Hospital and Headway Oxfordshire.

To donate to the charity's appeal visit tinyurl.com/zks-d8xx and let us know what you are doing to help.



Father-of-three Matthew Hambridge raised £200 for P2G

Artist sees farm with fresh eyes

WITNEY'S Cogges Manor Farm is to host the first ever exhibition by its artist in residence.

Local painter Sally Wyatt has explored Cogges with a fresh pair of eyes and seen a different side to the historical site through her painting.

The solo exhibition entitled 'Trace' is a visual record of a year at Cogges, reflecting the beauty of the landscape, which boasts a 1,000-year history.

The well-known attraction and community venue has allowed Sally to interpret the heritage farmstead in her own way.

She said: "I have spent time at Cogges through the seasons, absorbing and drawing the meadow, trees and nature, observing the vegetation in the meadow, the woods and the garden in summer, seeking interesting light and shade.

"This year has changed the way I see Cogges. My memories were of the old farm museum that my own children visited 20 years ago.

"I want to thank Cogges and the trustees for responding to my request to paint in the grounds with the offer of a residency."

The exhibition will be on show around the historic buildings of Cogges from April 1 to June 30.

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News Bites

Council surgery

BANBURY: Residents who want to ask questions or raise concerns can drop in to Banbury Town Council's monthly surgery to meet councillors.

The next one is at the town hall, Bridge Street, on Saturday from 10am to midday.

Councillors Colin Clarke and Shaida Hussain will be on hand to speak to visitors.

Fun at the farm

CHIPPING NORTON: Oxfordshire farm attraction Fairytale Farm is holding an Easter event from April 14 to 17.

Facilities at the farm, off the A44 Chipping Norton, include a giant rabbit burrow, an egg hunt and cookie decorating.

Owner Nick Laister says: "Our giant rabbit burrow is open all through the Easter weekend so come along and meet the Easter bunny."

Town awards

THAME: People are being reminded to nominate individuals, groups and organisations who deserve recognition.

Voting for the Thame Town Council awards closes on Monday, April 3.

Categories include lifetime achievement, volunteer of the year, creative arts, sporting achievement and service with a smile.

Hundreds record travel times for hospital battle

By Samantha McGregor

MORE than 350 residents have logged their journey from Banbury and surrounding areas to hospitals in Oxford after a campaign by MP Victoria Prentis.

Patients were encouraged to record their travel time as part of the ongoing protest against plans to downgrade services at Banbury's Horton General Hospital.

The results provide evidence to the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group of the need for services, particularly maternity, to stay in Banbury.

Mrs Prentis said: "I am deeply concerned about the impact of increased travel times on my constituents travelling to hospital for appointments or in order to visit relatives.

"The journey between North Oxfordshire and the JR can be extremely unpredictable, and parking at hospital is often a problem.

"This needs to be considered as part of the ongoing consultation over the future of NHS services in Oxfordshire.

"I am delighted that so many people have taken part so far, and it would be excellent if as many more people as possible could get involved in this last week of the campaign."

The issue of cuts in services at the Horton hospital was used as a case study in Parliament during a hearing by the Public Accounts Committee about ambulance provision.

Ambulance bosses were questioned about the impact on the service following changes at hospitals and the safety of expectant mothers.

Mrs Prentis said: "The answers the committee was given were enlightening and have provided me with some further avenues to explore as I continue to fight to save the Horton."

Campaign group Keep the Horton General, which is fighting cuts in services, was given a boost after Midcounties Co-operative agreed to donate 50 per cent of money generated by carrier bag sales in the town to the group's legal fund.

Last week a cheque for £1,611 was presented.

Plots thicken on the largest self-build site

EIGHT more plots on the UK's biggest self-build development at Bicester have been released for sale.

The 187-hectare Graven Hill Village site has planning approval for up to 1,900 self-build homes, a primary school, employment space, a pub and local shops.

The scheme will include kit homes, group-build schemes and individually designed properties.

The eight new plots, for four, five and six bedrooms homes, have a guide price of between £230,000 and £265,000.

Seven premium plots were recently snapped up in a sealed bid auction.

Adrian Unitt, operations director for the Graven Hill Village Development Company, said: "We had anticipated high levels of interest in these plots, given their prime location near to the hill, but we are delighted that all seven have sold as it confirms that our guide prices are right for the market.

"Given the level of demand for these larger size plots, we have therefore made the decision to bring forward the release of a further eight plots."

Cherwell District Council set up the Graven Hill development company after buying the former MoD site in 2014.

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Waste firm boss 'thrilled' by carbon-neutral fleet success

A BENSON-BASED waste firm is looking to make a difference to the planet by reducing all greenhouse emissions from its vehicles for a fourth year running.

Grundon Waste Management has had a successful three-year CarbonNeutral fleet certification programme for its 100-plus trucks, large vans and company cars based at its offices in Ewelme and Banbury.

It means every mile travelled by Grundon vehicles, whether on waste collection rounds or customer visits, is officially carbon neutral.

This not only supports Grundon in meeting its own environmental objectives, it also helps its customers reduce their own carbon footprint.

Deputy chairman Neil Grundon said: "We are delighted to have been able to extend our commitment through 2017.

"We know that vehicle emissions are a major source of greenhouse gases and, with an extensive road-going fleet, it is important for us to consider how we can make a difference.

"We are very pleased to have achieved our target of net zero emissions."

Quadruple celebrations for from left, Vivian Frost, client relationship manager, Natural Capital Partners; Shaun Wormald, lead driver – Colnbrook, Grundon Waste Management; Neil Grundon, deputy chairman, and Toni Robinson, compliance manager

He added: "We are thrilled to hear how our support is making such a difference to families and making the planet a greener place to live."

Based at Thames House, the Benson firm has also teamed up with carbon offsetting company Natural Capital Partners to make a difference to the environment even further afield.

As a result, Grundon has supported a community reforestation project in Uganda, which organises hundreds of small community-based tree planting initiatives.

The group has helped plant more than a million trees.

Share gay life stories

AN Oxford councillor is asking people who were forced to hide their sexuality in the past to come forward and share their story.

Councillor Tom Haynes of Oxford City Council is asking people to share stories about gay life before 1967, to celebrate the 50th anniversary year of the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

His appeal reads: "I'm an LGBT city councillor in Oxford and I'm asking gay men who lived in Oxford before 1967 to share their memories of the times they fell in love and what life was like. Your story needs to be told this year.

"The 50th anniversary is an amazing opportunity to protect an important chapter in the history of our community. It gives our community a chance to tell its story in its own words."

He added: "50 years on from decriminalisation, there's still work to do.

"Same-sex couples in Northern Ireland lack the same rights as the rest of the UK and many Commonwealth countries repress LGBT people."

"It's important to protect our history and shine a light on the on-going rights struggle."

To tell your story, register your interest at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfsK_H0qVx8ubcnSlptuFhCRbE-mV78g4sCmyi8xq0e2s9u3aw/viewform

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'Streaming' cameras to aid the air ambulance

LIVE streaming cameras for air ambulance paramedics will save valuable time and improve advice in times of emergency.

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) paramedics and local hospital consultants who work on the Thames Valley Air Ambulance have been given the new technology.

The innovation allows Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) staff to see live footage streams when the paramedics and doctors get to an emergency scene.

Health professional Dr Syed Masud is a consultant in Emergency Medicine & Pre-Hospital Medicine for HEMS, clinical governance lead for Thames Valley Air Ambulance and a lecturer at Oxford University.

He said: "When senior clinicians are being asked by staff at the scene of a medical emergency or major trauma for advice, those clinicians can now see live footage of what is happening.

"This not only saves valuable time – and in the life-threatening emergencies that air ambulance staff are sent to, every second counts – but also means more accurate advice can be given."

A humungous Archimedes screw on its way to Sandford Weir Picture: @OxfordCity

Taming of the screw

A GIANT 'Archimedes' screw inches its way out of a depot on the back of a low-loader on its way to the River Thames last week.

Oxford City Council posted a picture online of the marvel of engineering – a vital cog in the development of a renewable energy scheme at Sandford Weir.

Sandford Hydro is a community energy project that will produce 1,600 MWh of renewable electricity every year – enough to power about 450 homes.

The screws will be used to generate electricity from the flow of the river water.

The hydro scheme is developed by Low Carbon Hub (LCH), which expects all works to be completed by the summer.

The group says an average of two tonnes of CO_2 will be saved every day.

For the latest updates visit tinyurl.com/lkxulh2. LCH will be at the ATOM Science Festival in Abingdon next month.

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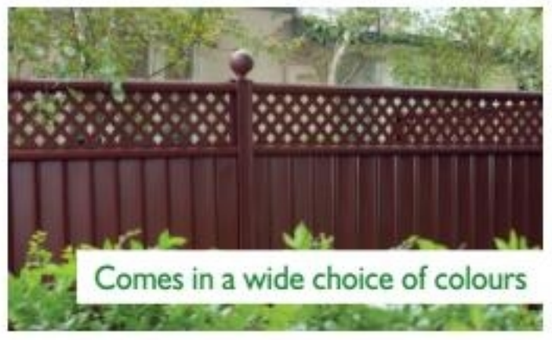

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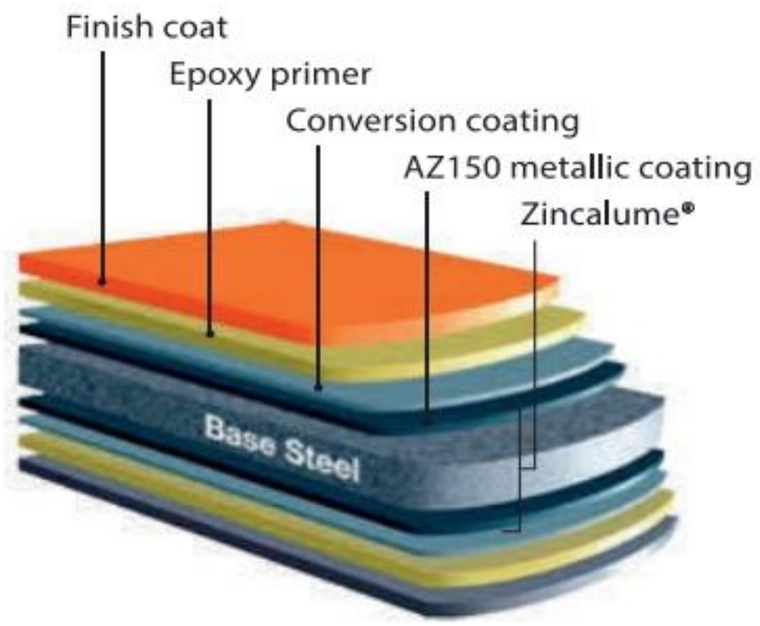

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Warning as dog-walker stumbles across eight-foot boa constrictor

The eight-foot boa constrictor

A DOG walker found an eight-foot boa constrictor snake in a Banbury field.

The RSPCA said it did not know how the 12.2 kilogramme, eight-foot six-inch female reptile came to be in the field near a housing estate in Banbury.

The snake was discovered on Saturday, March 18.

The animal charity is appealing for her owner to come forward.

Deputy chief inspector Melanie Fisher said: "It's hard to know for sure how this snake came to be in the field but I think the caller got a bit of a surprise.

"It's not every day you stumble upon an eight foot snake while out walking the dog.

"The snake may have escaped from a vivarium or may have been abandoned.

"Sadly she's not microchipped so we do not know where she has come from. She is still in our care and is now doing really well despite the cold weather.

"Snakes aren't able to produce their own body heat so being outdoors in the UK, especially during cold weather, can be really serious.

"Their body can't function normally outside the correct temperature range."

She said the RSPCA had noticed an increase in the number of exotic animals – including snakes – being abandoned.

It believes people take on the animals without realising how much commitment they need.

Deputy chief inspector Fisher added: "She is the latest in a growing number of boa constrictors coming in to our care. We currently have dozens of boas looking for new, but experienced homes."

Anyone with information can call 0300 123 8018.

Peeps spreading a little 'helpfulness'

By Eva Astreinidou

Saf Nazeer and Simon Hills founded Helpfulpeeps

A NEW social media vowing to spread helpfulness and create a 'karma economy' is coming to Oxford.

Founded by Simon Hills and Saf Nazeer, Helpfulpeeps is looking to recruit community 'champions' in Oxford who want to contribute to their community for free by sharing their time, skills, and energy to help other people.

The social platform encourages users to lend a helping hand and earn 'karma' points in the process.

The platform is currently home to 30,000 members across the UK, and its creators are now hoping that in the next two to four weeks they will have 2,000 or more in Oxford alone.

The founders started the business in 2015 after seeing a report on the kindest cities across the UK.

Since then, they have created categories of deeds, some of which are listed under peer-to-peer, group charity work, and helping others out with 'cool ideas'.

Saf Nazeer, co-founder of the company, said: "We don't want people getting caught up in the point system.

"The real value is that you get gratitude and you have done a good deed."

He recalled how people in the past have helped others launch online businesses by creating the company's website, helping with marketing, or even coordinating activities for them.

Previously, a member was inspired to help the homeless community and asked fellow subscribers to help by creating a website that would give disadvantaged people a portal to access jobs.

In another instance, a member of the platform wanted to volunteer in the refugee camps in Calais, and asked for help gathering supplies from other members.

Whether it's moving a sofa or lending a hand at a charity event, the platform aims to get as many people helping as possible by putting them in touch with other like-minded individuals in their community.

To become a member sign up by visiting www.helpfulpeeps.com.

News Bites

Cricket for girls

THAME: Former England international cricketer Lydia Greenway is bringing her Cricket for Girls academy to the town.

The academy is open to girls aged up to the age of 18 and will be run on Friday evenings for seven weeks from May 5 at Thame Town Cricket Club.

Girls will be coached in under-11 and 11 to 18 age groups.

Job hunt bonanza

BICESTER: Job hunters will have the opportunity to meet local employers from a wide range of sectors at the Bicester Job Fair.

It is free to attend and takes place at Bicester Library, Franklin House, Pioneer Square, on Thursday, April 6, from 4pm to 7pm.

Among the organisations taking part is Bullingdon prison and Thames Valley Police.

Music to their ears

THAME: The musical evening held at St Mary's Church raised £615 for this year's mayor's charities – The Red Kite Children's Centre and Thame Youth.

There were performances by the Thame Concert Band, TMA Voices Choir, Thame Children's Choir, Thame Pop Choir, St Mary's Choir and the Greatest Hits Choir.

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SPRING has finally arrived, heralding the start of an exciting season of Flat racing at Newbury Racecourse, and you could be there to witness it! Once more the multi-award winning and world-renowned airport retailer Dubai Duty Free are giving you the opportunity to experience a thrilling day out at the races for the Dubai Duty Free Spring Trials.

This year with two days of top-class horseracing on the 21st and 22nd of April, the Dubai Duty Free Spring Trials annually unearths and showcases exciting new equine talent, earning itself a reputation as an early season highlight of the Flat racing calendar.

Open to all, new and experienced racegoers alike, and with opportunities to win further prizes on the Dubai Duty Free Wheel of Surprise, as well as chances to win free entry into the Dubai Duty Free Finest Surprise and the Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire draws, this day is one not to be missed!

Closing date: Thursday, April 13

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Puzzles

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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

4 Entertains (6)
8 Wildly excited (7)
10 Shorten (7)
11 Distribute (5)
12 Kind of boat (5)
13 Stripping (9)
16 Stars (9)
19 Rule (5)
20 Superior (5)
22 Chewed (7)
23 Provided with (7)
24 Slumbers (6)

Quick Clues Down

1 Frightened (6)
2 Letters (4)
3 Political wisdom (13)
5 Fairground attractions (5-2-6)
6 Tempters (8)
7 Perspires (6)
9 Desert plants (5)
14 Discrepancy (8)
15 Vagrants (6)
17 Business (5)
18 Step (6)
21 Pledge (4)

Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

4 I leave the dream to worship (6)
8 So do our ingredients become fragrant (7)
10 Placed the cold tea elsewhere . . . (7)
11 . . . and turned over the book to find some inside showing signs of heat (5)
12 Kind of animal with father outside and inside (5)
13 One result of the reproductive system (9)
16 Replied there could be some grass round the southern lake (9)
19 Four immersed in drink, but still breathing (5)
20 Change part of the place of worship, by the sound of it (5)
22 Enquired about part of the Bible that could be reproduced (7)
23 The curve otherwise is round the edge (7)
24 It takes a worker on the land to steer at sea (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Loose talk of the swine turning back about an unusual call for help (6)
2 Propose to change houses (4)
3 Accommodation for the fresh-air fiend? (4,2,7)
5 The rule does not apply to a friend in unusual circumstances (13)
6 Enlarged externally, contracted, then finished (8)
7 The last organ to gain affection (6)
9 Incline to a particular angle (5)
14 Person of authority who is off before one secular uprising (8)
15 Projection that sounds as if one should strike it (6)
17 Dig this card (5)
18 Obscure, having taken refuge in study (6)
21 Record the conversation at the finishing post (4)

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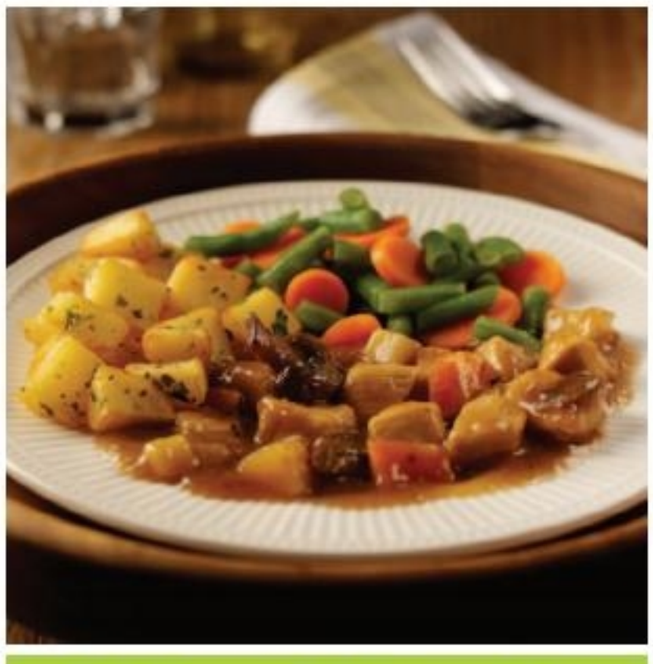

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Puzzles

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

	8	2			4	6		
9				5	1	7	4	
		1	9		6		5	
6				7	5			2
3		8				5		7
7	2		8	6				1
	4		3		8	9		
	5	7	6	2				
		9	5			8	2	

			1		9			
1	7						9	5
9		2				3		7
		8	5		6	1		
			3		4			
		9	7		8	2		
6		1				5		9
3	4						2	6
			4		2			

7		2	3				1	
	5						3	7
6				4		8		
	8	1			9			
			4			7	9	
		9		2				6
8	3						7	
	2				1	9		5

This week's solutions

5	8	9	1	3	6	7	2	4
1	7	3	2	4	5	6	9	8
9	6	2	8	7	3	4	1	5
4	3	8	5	9	6	1	7	2
2	1	7	3	8	4	9	5	6
6	5	4	7	1	2	8	3	9
8	4	6	9	5	7	2	1	3
3	9	5	4	2	8	1	6	7
7	2	1	6	6	1	5	8	9

8	5	9	6	2	4	3	7	1
3	4	7	9	5	1	8	2	6
6	2	1	8	3	7	5	9	4
9	8	2	5	4	3	1	7	6
1	7	4	2	8	6	9	5	3
5	6	3	1	7	9	4	8	2
2	3	7	4	1	5	6	9	8
4	9	5	3	6	8	2	1	7
7	1	6	7	9	2	8	4	5

1	3	9	5	4	7	8	2	6
8	5	7	6	2	9	1	3	4
2	4	6	3	1	8	9	7	5
7	2	5	8	6	3	4	9	1
3	1	8	4	9	2	5	6	7
6	9	4	1	7	5	3	8	2
4	7	1	9	8	6	2	5	3
9	6	3	2	5	1	7	4	8
5	8	2	7	3	4	6	1	9

Quick Crossword

Across: 4 Amuses 8 Frantic 10 Abridge 11 Allot 12 Yacht 13 Divesting|6 Asterisks 19 Reign 20 Upper 22 Munched 23 Endowed 24 Sleeps

Down: 1 Afraid 2 Mail 3 Statesmanship 5 Merry-go-rounds 6 Seducers/ Sweats 9 Cacti 14 Variance 15 Tramps 17 Trade 18 Stride 21 Pawn

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 4 Reverie 8 Odorous 10 Located 11 Steam 12 Panda 13 Photostat 17 Responded 19 Alive 20 Alter 22 Printed 23 Ellipse 24 Tiler

Down: 1 Gossip 2 Move 3 Room to breathe 5 Exceptionally 6 Extended 7 Endear 9 Start 14 Official 15 Tappet 17 Spade 18 Darken 21 Tape

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COMPUTING

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	START DATE	START TIME	END TIME	CAMPUS	DAY	WEEKS	FEE	REDUCED FEE*
JCWN183P	Basic Computer Skills	27/04/2017	09:30	12:00	Witney Campus	THU	4	FREE	FREE
XSAL556P	Microsoft Excel Beginners	16/05/2017	17:30	20:30	Abingdon Campus	TUE	2	£99.00	n/a

FLORISTRY

PCKN030P	Floristry - mixed ability	25/04/2017	19:15	21:15	Cooper School, Bicester	TUE	5	£109.00	£65.40
PCWN053P	Introduction to Floristry	08/05/2017	11:00	13:00	Witney Campus	MON	5	£67.00	FREE
EPWL101P	Create Simple Floristry Designs - Level 1	06/06/2017	18:30	21:00	Witney Campus	TUE	4	£180.00	£15.00

HAIR & BEAUTY

HSAM108P	Gel Polish Techniques VTCT - Level 2 Award	25/04/2017	18:00	21:00	Abingdon Campus	TUE	3	£335.00	n/a
HPWM108P	Gel Polish Techniques VTCT - Level 2 Award	27/04/2017	18:00	21:00	Witney Campus	THU	3	£339.00	£230.00
HPAM108P	Gel Polish Techniques VTCT - Level 2 Award	09/05/2017	18:00	21:00	Abingdon Campus	TUE	3	£339.00	£230.00
HSWM100P	Minx Nails Workshop	18/05/2017	18:00	20:30	Witney Campus	THU	2	£40.00	n/a
HSAM113P	Minx Nails Workshop	06/06/2017	18:00	20:30	Abingdon Campus	TUE	2	£40.00	n/a

HEALTH & CARE

XSAM551P	Paediatric First Aid Level 3 Award	11/04/2017	09:00	17:00	Abingdon Campus	TUE & WED	1	£149.00	n/a
XPWN502P	Award in an Introduction to Early Years Settings L1	04/05/2017	09:30	14:30	Witney Campus	THU	5	£180.00	FREE
CSAM118P	Introduction to Counselling Skills	08/05/2017	18:00	21:00	Abingdon Campus	MON	5	£85.00	n/a
XPWN502P	Award in an Introduction to Early Years Settings L1	04/05/2017	09:30	14:30	Witney Campus	THU	5	£180.00	FREE

LANGUAGES

LCWN112P	Lipreading	25/04/2017	14:00	16:00	Witney Campus	TUE	10	£94.00	£56.40
LCKN109P	Lipreading	27/04/2017	10:30	12:30	Kidlington Adult Learning	THU	10	£94.00	£56.40
LCXN206P	Lipreading	27/04/2017	14:00	15:30	N.O.A. Com. Centre, Summertown	THU	10	£70.00	£42.00
LCKN189P	Spanish - for holidays	27/04/2017	19:00	21:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	THU	5	£52.00	£31.20
LCXM462P	Italian - for holidays	27/04/2017	19:00	21:00	Oxford Adult Learning, Cowley	THU	5	£52.00	£31.20

LEARNING FOR WELLBEING

ZCGM064P	Restorative Yoga	24/04/2017	18:00	19:00	Grove Adult Learning	MON	7	£33.00	£19.80
ZCGM082P	Yoga - mixed ability	24/04/2017	19:00	20:30	Grove Adult Learning	MON	10	£50.00	£30.00
ZCGM085P	Yoga club	27/04/2017	10:00	11:30	Hanney War Memorial Hall	THU	7	£50.00	£30.00
ZCKM031P	Learn how to be a life coach	27/04/2017	19:00	21:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	THU	10	£94.00	£64.00
ZCRN006P	Pilates for Over 60s	28/04/2017	13:00	14:00	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	FRI	10	£47.00	£28.20
ZCRN005P	Pilates	28/04/2017	19:00	20:00	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	FRI	10	£47.00	£28.20
ZCBM092P	Posturecise - beginners	02/05/2017	10:00	11:00	Glyme Hall, Chipping Norton	TUE	10	£47.00	£28.20
ZCKN084P	Movement for Health & Wellbeing	02/05/2017	19:00	20:30	Kidlington Adult Learning	TUE	10	£71.00	£42.60
ZCXM645P	Movement for Health & Wellbeing	03/05/2017	19:00	20:30	Cheney School, Oxford	WED	9	£64.00	£38.40
ZCRM089P	Exercise to Music - beginners welcome	04/05/2017	10:00	11:00	Didcot Conservative Club	THU	10	£47.00	£28.20
ZCWM098P	Zumba - gentle rhythms	04/05/2017	10:30	11:30	Bampton Village Hall	THU	10	£47.00	£28.20
ZCKM073P	Yoga - a new approach	04/05/2017	19:00	20:30	Bicester Wellbeing Centre	THU	10	£70.00	£42.00
ZCKN163P	Movement for health & wellbeing	04/05/2017	19:00	20:30	Kidlington Adult Learning	THU	10	£71.00	£42.60
ZCRM090P	Exercise to Music - beginners welcome	05/05/2017	09:30	10:30	Didcot Conservative Club	FRI	10	£47.00	£28.20

LEARNING FOR WORK

XPWM500P	Award in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care L1	13/04/2017	09:30	12:30	Witney Campus	THU	8	FREE	FREE
XSWM500P	Award in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care L1	13/04/2017	09:30	12:30	Witney Campus	THU	8	£180.00	n/a
WCXM588P	Introduction to Working with Children	20/04/2017	10:30	12:30	Oxford Adult Learning, Cowley	THU	6	FREE	FREE
WCBM579P	Introduction to Working with Children	25/04/2017	10:30	12:30	Banbury Adult Learning	TUE	5	FREE	FREE
WCKM593P	Introduction to Working with Children	25/04/2017	19:00	21:00	Kidlington Adult Learning	TUE	5	FREE	FREE

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LEARNING FOR WORK (Continued)

COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	START DATE	START TIME	END TIME	CAMPUS	DAY	WEEKS	FEE	REDUCED FEE*
WCRN594P	Introduction to Working with Children	26/04/2017	10:30	12:30	King Alfred's Comm. Centre, Watage	WED	5	FREE	FREE
WCAM574P	Introduction to Working with Children	27/04/2017	19:00	21:00	Abingdon Campus	THU	5	FREE	FREE
ZCRN009P	Level 2 Award in Food Safety and Catering	08/05/2017	09:30	16:00	Berinsfield Adult Learning	MON	1	£70.00	£42.00
XPXN544P	Emergency First Aid at Work Level 2	09/05/2017	09:00	16:30	Oxford Adult Learning, Cowley	TUE	1	£35.00	£6.00
ZCGN015P	Level 2 Award in Food Safety and Catering	22/05/2017	09:30	16:00	Grove Adult Learning	MON	1	£70.00	£42.00

MUSIC AND DANCE

ZCRN011P	Dance and Movement for the Over 60s	25/04/2017	14:00	15:00	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	TUE	10	£47.00	£28.20
ZCRN004P	Adult Ballet - beginners	25/04/2017	18:15	19:15	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	TUE	10	£47.00	£28.20
ZCRN010P	West End Dance	25/04/2017	19:30	20:30	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	TUE	10	£47.00	£28.20
ZCRN001P	Adult Tap - beginners	26/04/2017	18:15	19:00	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	WED	10	£36.00	£21.60
ZCRN003P	Adult Ballet - beginners	26/04/2017	20:15	21:15	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	WED	10	£47.00	£28.20
PCRN006P	Guitar - beginners	27/04/2017	09:45	11:30	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	THU	10	£104.00	£62.40
PCXN039P	Ukulele - beginners	28/04/2017	10:00	12:00	Oxford Adult Learning, Cowley	FRI	10	£94.00	£56.40
ZCRN007P	Drama for the Over 60s	28/04/2017	10:30	12:30	Cornerstone Arts, Didcot	FRI	10	£94.00	£56.40

PHOTOGRAPHY

PCXM267P	Photography walks - beginners, Oxford canal walk	29/04/2017	10:00	14:00	Port Meadow, Oxford	SAT	1	£27.00	£16.20
PCBM248P	Digital DSLR photography - stage 3	03/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Glyme Hall, Chipping Norton	WED	10	£104.00	£62.40
PCXM264P	Photography - how to use your compact camera	04/05/2017	19:00	21:00	Oxford Adult Learning, Cowley	THU	5	£52.00	£31.20
PCBN210P	Practical DSLR photography	20/05/2017	10:00	16:00	E.Melvin Photography, Swalcliffe	SAT	1	£41.00	£24.60
PCXM266P	Photography walks - beginners, garden walk	27/05/2017	10:00	14:00	Botanic Gardens, Oxford	SAT	1	£27.00	£16.20
PCWM270P	Photography walks - beginners, wildlife park	17/06/2017	10:30	16:30	Costwold Wildlife Park, Burford	SAT	1	£41.00	£24.60
PCXM261P	Digital street photography - beginners	24/06/2017	10:00	16:00	Oxford Adult Learning Cowley	SAT	1	£41.00	FREE
PCXM269P	Photography walks - beginners, garden walk	09/07/2017	10:00	16:00	Waterperry Gardens, Oxford	SUN	1	£34:00	FREE

TEACHER TRAINING

CSAN100P	Education and Training Level 3 Award	25/04/2017	18:00	21:00	Abingdon Campus	TUE	10	£384.00	n/a
XSWN600P	Training Essentials	03/05/2017	09:00	16:30	Witney Campus	WED	1	£110.00	n/a

Apprentice: Emma Bradford, Level 2 Business with Crowcon, in Didcot.

Apprentice: Jacob Walton, Level 2 IT with PMC Retail, in Abingdon.

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Helping Hands - *Advertising Feature*

Supporting you in your time of need

6.5 million people in the UK care, unpaid, for a disabled, older or ill family member or friend. Whilst caring can be rewarding, without the right support, it can also take a serious toll on a carer's health, relationships and finances.

That's why, this Carers Week (12-18 June), individuals and communities up and down the UK are being asked to do what they can to make life that little bit easier for carers. Whoever you are, whatever you do, you can make a difference.

The aim is to highlight the importance of Carer Friendly Communities – places where local people and services understand what it's like to be a carer and show what they are doing to help and support carers better.

People are being asked to visit the Carers Week website to recommend Carer Friendly services. It might be an employer, local GP, pharmacy, local care service, school or a café that is Carer Friendly.

What is a carer?

A carer is someone who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who has a disability, illness, mental health problem or who needs extra help as they grow older.

For some, taking on a caring role can be sudden: someone in your family has an accident or your child is born with a disability. For others, caring creeps up unnoticed: your parents can't manage on their own any longer or your partner's health gradually worsens.

The amount and type of support that carers provide varies considerably. It can range from a few hours a week, such as picking up prescriptions and preparing meals, to providing care day and night.

Caring will touch each and every one of us in our lifetime, whether we become a carer or need care ourselves. Whilst caring can be a rewarding experience, it can also have a damaging impact on a person's health, finances and relationships.

To find out how you can get support in your caring role, visit: www.carersweek.org/support

Facts about carers

6.5 million people in the UK are carers; that's 1 in 8 adults (Census 2011)

By 2037, it is estimated that the number of carers in the UK will rise to 9 million (Carers UK)

Every day another 6,000 people take on a caring responsibility – that equals over 2 million people every year (Carers UK)

58% of carers are women and 42% are men (Census 2011)

The unpaid care provided by the UK's carers is worth £132 billion per year, an average of £19,336 per carer (Carers UK, University of Sheffield, University of Leeds)

Over 3 million people juggle care with work, however the significant demands of caring mean that 1 in 5 carers are forced to give up work altogether (Carers UK)

A BBC Survey (2010) estimated there are more than 700,000 young carers

There are 376,000 young adult carers in the UK aged 16-25 (Census 2011)

1 in 5 people aged 50-64 are carers (Census 2011)

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Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Anovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids). The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compare to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid.

Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can befound at EuroTrak UK 2015- ehima

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The mysteries of the brain: food for thought!

IF you ask a group of people what makes humans different from animals and why we developed into the species we are today, you'll get a vast array of responses. These will range from the biological – that we stand on our hind legs enabling our hands to do other things than walk and we have opposable thumbs so we can use these hands with particular precision – to the cultural: we have tamed fire, we use tools and language, and we feel empathy. And underlying all of these is the human brain, and its incredible capacity to learn, remember and adapt.

The brain is a marvel of evolution and deciphering how it works is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. How does it change over the course of your life, and respond to your genes, experiences and the passing years to make you the person you are?

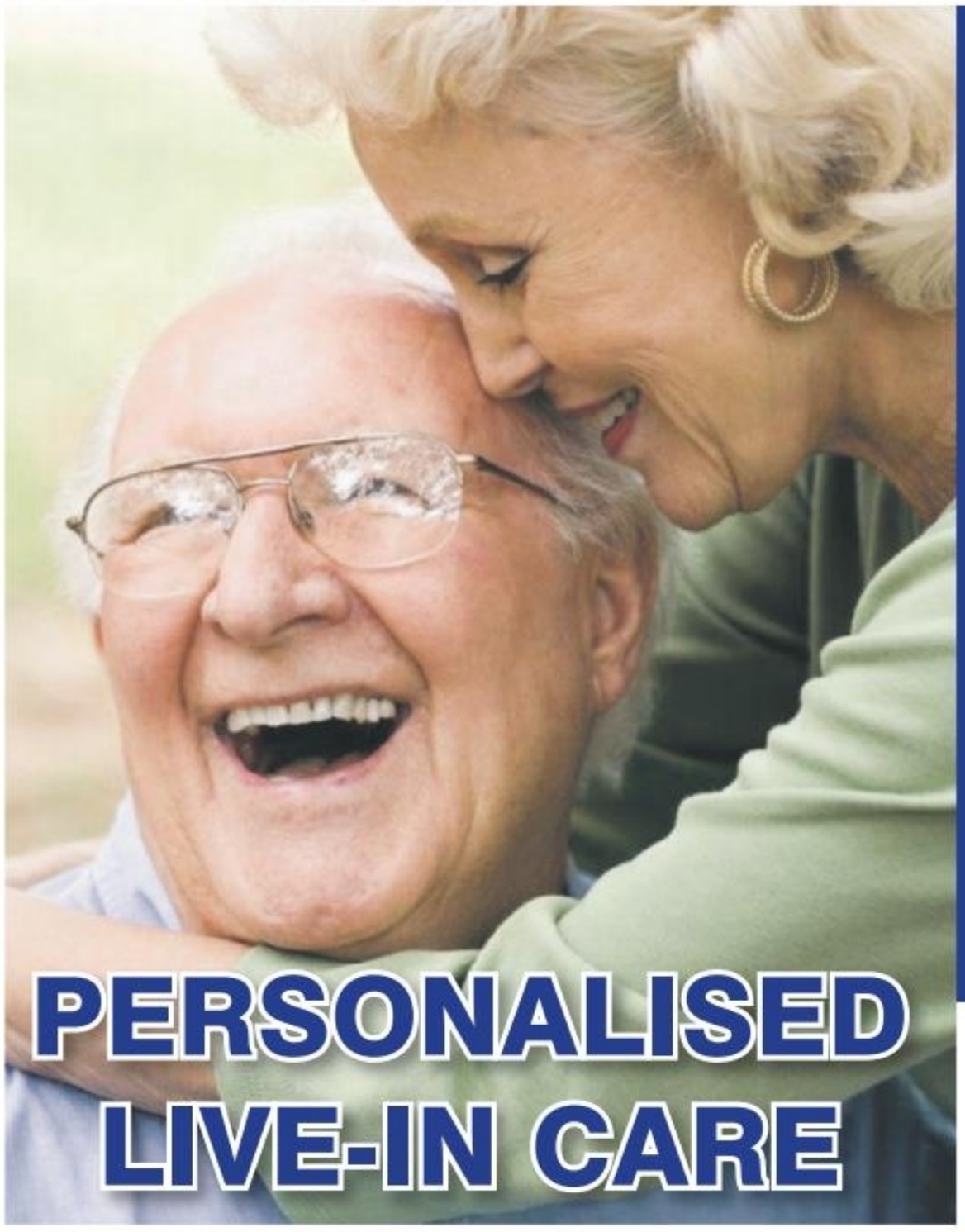
And in Oxford's Museum of Natural History which is free to visit, there's a new display 'The Brain Diaries' (until September; for age twelve and over) in which Oxford University neuroscientists share their thoughts about the mysteries of the brain looking at its development chapter-by-chapter from before birth until old age – and offering insights into what this could mean for treating nervous system and mental health disorders.

In this exhibition, you can compare the human brain with the brain of a cat, kangaroo, porpoise and other animals along the 'brain wall'. Follow too the changes that take place in the brain throughout life: see how the mind-boggling billions of neurons and trillions of connections in your brain make toddlers learn so fast, make teenagers emotional risk-takers, and allow others to settle into middle age with relief!

It's long been know that over time our ability to think quickly, to recall stored memories, and to respond to stimuli slows down and this is because of a gradually shrinking cortex, the brain's outermost layer. From age 40, your brain shrinks by five percent a decade on average but there's still plenty of energy and learning potential which is best kept from decline through physical exercise and new experiences. From age 60, the gaps between the folds in the brain's surface become increasingly larger as the brain shrinks in volume, particularly in the frontal cortex – and you can actually see this in the 3D-printed models of the brain of one of the scientists and her family members at different stages of life!

In this month's Scientific American magazine, however, there's new research showing that some older adults have a shrink-resistant cortex, and they perform more like youngsters in memory tests. Because these people are more resistant to age-related diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia, they should begin to give researchers some clues about the genes that keep the brain functioning better for longer, a first step developing a successful treatment of these conditions. And although the answers are likely to be a long time coming because brain health also requires a healthy way of life, keep doing the crossword and eating healthily!

And here's food for thought – when you feel happy it's down to certain chemicals in the brain and surprisingly scientists have shown that a win or an achievement may not result in the happiness you expect because the neurons – or signalling cells – actually react most to the anticipation. So however old we are, however reduced our horizons by physical or mental capacity, we can all still feel happiness by looking ahead to a meal, a visit or the warm weather of spring which is just around the corner. Enjoy!



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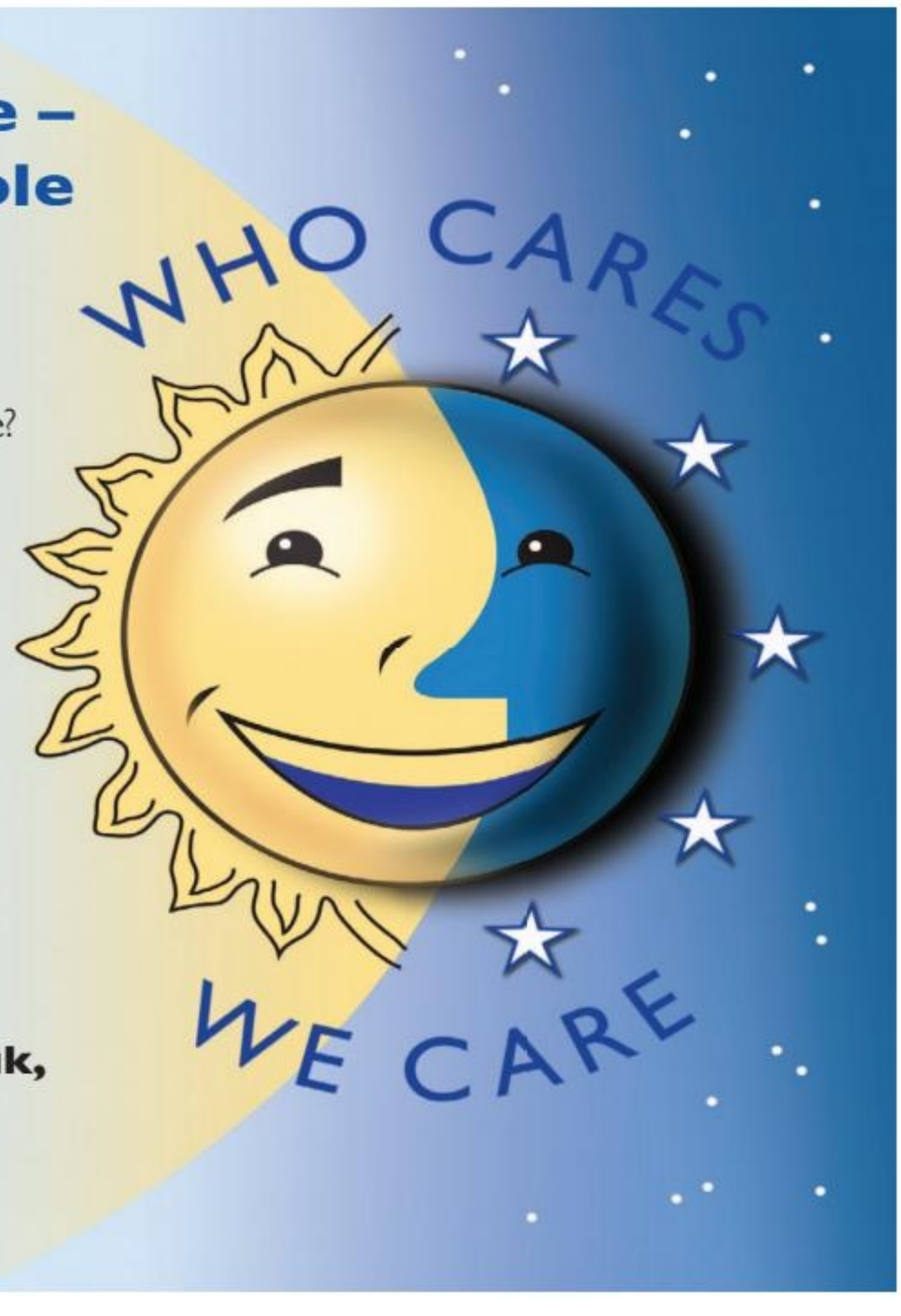

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Saturday April 1st

BBC1

Casualty, 8.25pm

DAYTIME

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** (S) **11.30 Mary Berry Everyday** (S)(R) **12.00 Football Focus** (S) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Bargain Hunt** (S) **2.15 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **3.15 Money for Nothing** (S)(R) **4.00 Final Score** (S) **5.15 FILM Madagascar (2005) (U)** (S) **6.35 BBC News** (S) **6.45 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.50 Pointless Celebrities** (S)

7

7.40 Who Dares Wins Game show in which strangers pair up to win money. (S)

8

8.25 Casualty Alicia wakes up in Sam's bed. (S)

9

9.15 All Round to Mrs Brown's Agnes and the family are joined by Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield, who are put through their paces in the Brown family version of The Cube. (S)

10

10.15 BBC News; Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S)
10.30 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches. (S)

11

AFTER 12

12.00 FILM Jagged Edge (1985) (18) Thriller, starring Jeff Bridges. (S) **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.50** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands, 8pm

8.25 FILM We Dive at Dawn (1943) (U) (S) **10.00 Natural World** (S)(R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **12.00 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well** (S)(R) **12.30 Hairy Bikers' Best of British** (S)(R) **1.15 FILM Gypsy (1962) (PG)** (S) **3.30 Natural World** (S)(R) **4.30 University Challenge** (S)(R) **5.00 Only Connect** (S)(R) **5.30 Flog It!** (S)(R) **6.30 Gardeners' World** (S)(R)

7.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby Giles Coren and Monica Galetti work in some of the world's most extraordinary hotels. (S)(R)

8.00 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands Paul Murton visits North Rona. Last in the series. (S)
8.30 Dad's Army (S)(R)

9.00 QI XL With David Mitchell, Sue Perkins and Sami Shah. (S)
9.45 FILM Jimi: All Is By My Side (2013) (15) Premiere. Biopic of Jimi Hendrix. Starring Andre Benjamin. (S)

11.35 FILM Populaire (2012) (12) Comedy, starring Deborah Francois and Romain Duris. (S)

1.20 This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Superman, 2.40pm

9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time (S)(R) **9.25 Alphabetical** (S)(R) **10.20 James Martin's French Adventure** (S)(R) **11.20 Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury** (S)(R) **11.50 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.00 Rebound** (S)(R) **12.55 FILM Beethoven's 2nd (1993) (U)** (S) **2.40 FILM Superman (1978) (PG)** (S) **5.30 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.45 ITV News** (S) **6.00 You've Been Framed! Let Loose!** (S)

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway Dermot O'Leary joins the duo on tonight's show for an edition of I'm A Celebrity Get Out of Me Ear! (S)

8.30 The Voice UK This year's contest concludes with a two-part finale as four acts face the ultimate test of their vocal abilities. (S)

10.20 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.35 Lethal Weapon A man wrecks a jewellery store and puts a security guard in hospital. (S)(R)

11.35 The Chase Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (S)(R)

12.30 Jackpot247 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen**

Channel 4

Titanic, 7pm

6.05 Triathlon: Challenge Wanaka (S) **6.30 The King of Queens** (S)(R) **7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.35 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.40 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **11.00 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **12.30 Extreme Food** (S) **1.00 Come Dine with Me** (S)(R) **3.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **4.35 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **5.35 Grand Designs** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 FILM Titanic (1997) (12) James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio. (S)

10.45 FILM Colombiana (2011) (15) An orphan grows up to be an assassin while secretly plotting revenge on the gangsters who murdered her parents. Action thriller, starring Zoe Saldana. (S)

12.45 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S)(R) **1.35** Our Guy in China (S)(R) **2.30** Hollyoaks (S) **4.35** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R) **5.30** Fifteen to One (S)(R)

Channel 5

FIA Formula E Live: Mexico, 10.30pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S) **10.40 Access** (S) **10.50 Police Interceptors Unleashed** (S) **11.20 Police Interceptors** (S)(R) **12.20 On Benefits: Life on the Dole** (S)(R) **2.20 18 Kids & Claiming Benefits** Women who claim benefits while looking after several children. (S)(R) **3.20 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords** (S)(R) **5.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** (S)(R)

7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles Two pharmaceutical executives are murdered. (S)

8.00 NCIS A deep-sea diver is murdered by one of his co-workers. (S)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games. (S)

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush Goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. (S)
10.30 FIA Formula E Live: Mexico The Mexico City ePrix. Coverage of the fourth round. (S)

12.15 SuperCasino 3.10 FILM Blood Creek (2009) (18) Horror, with Henry Cavill and Dominic Purcell. (S) **4.45** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 The Vamps: The Hot Desk **6.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **6.35** Emmerdale **9.05** Coronation Street **11.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **1.10** Britain's Got Talent: Top 10 Child Stars **2.15** FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) (U) Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell. **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20** FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) (U) Concluded. **4.00** Mr Bean **5.05** FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) (PG) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell. **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) (PG) Concluded. **7.00** Scorpion **8.00** FILM: The Mask (1994) (PG) Comic-book comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** FILM: The Mask (1994) (PG) Concluded. **10.05** Family Guy **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.15** Family Guy **12.10** American Dad! **1.10** FILM: Hall Pass (2011) (15) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Judge Judy **6.20** On the Buses **6.45** Murder, She Wrote **9.40** FILM: Anne of Green Gables (2015) (U) Family drama, starring Ella Ballentine. **11.25** FILM: The Baby and the Battleship (1956) (U) British comedy, starring John Mills. **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30** FILM: The Baby and the Battleship (1956) (U) Concluded. **1.30** Heidi **3.35** Rosemary & Thyme **4.40** Inspector Morse **7.00** Endeavour **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Les Dawson Forever **12.00** Colditz **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 The Silk Road **8.00** Woolly Mammoth: Secrets from the Ice **9.00** Follow the Money **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.15** Classic Albums: The Beach Boys – Pet Sounds **1.15** The Joy of the Guitar Riff **2.15** The Kinks at the BBC **3.15** Sounds of the Eighties **3.40** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Melissa & Joey **6.40** Black-ish **7.05** The Goldbergs **8.00** Made in Chelsea **9.00** FILM: Space Chimps 2: Zartog Strikes Back (2010) (U) Animated sci-fi comedy sequel, with the voice of Zack Shada. **10.35** Melissa & Joey **1.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** FILM: Iron Man 2 (2010) (12) Superhero adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr. **9.00** FILM: The Transporter (2002) (15) Action adventure, starring Jason Statham. **10.50** Gogglebox **12.55** Rude Tube **2.00** Naked Attraction **2.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.40** Melissa & Joey **4.25** Revenge

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Come Dine with Me **11.30** Location, Location, Location **12.35** Coast vs Country **1.35** Rivers with Jeremy Paxman **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** The World's Weirdest Weather **9.00** Britain's Wildest Weather **10.40** Lee Mack: Hit the Road Mack **11.45** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.55** Britain's Wildest Weather **3.25** 8 Out of 10 Cats: Best Bits **3.50** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Siege at Red River (1954) (U) Western, starring Van Johnson. **1.00** Catch That Kid (2004) (PG) Comedy adventure, starring Kristen Stewart. **2.45** Carry On Cleo (1964) (PG) Comedy, starring Sid James. **4.35** Rango (2011) (PG) Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp. **6.45** Runaway Bride (1999) (PG) Romantic comedy, with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. **9.00** The Wolf of Wall Street (2013) (18) Martin Scorsese's fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **12.30** A Field in England (2013) (15) **2.15** Ben Wheatley Interview Special **2.25** Straightheads (2007) (18) **4.00** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Deadly 60 **10.00** Top Gear **12.00** Traffic Cops **2.00** Storage Hunters **2.30** Storage Hunters UK **3.00** Storage Hunters **3.30** Storage Hunters UK **4.00** Storage Hunters **4.30** Storage Hunters UK **5.00** Top Gear **7.20** Not Going Out **8.00** Not Going Out Christmas Special **9.00** Gavin & Stacey **11.00** Live at the Apollo **12.00** FILM: Blade (1998) (18) Action thriller, starring Wesley Snipes. **2.30** Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled **3.10** Not Going Out **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.00 Secret Army **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** Secret Army **5.00** FILM: Murder Most Foul (1964) (U) Agatha Christie mystery, with Margaret Rutherford. **7.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **8.00** Maisie Raine **9.00** Taggart **11.00** Waking the Dead **1.10** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **2.15** The Mrs Bradley Mysteries **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Futurama **8.30** Game Changers **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Live Premier League. Pre-match build-up to Liverpool v Everton. **12.30** Wild Things **1.30** Modern Family **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Ghost in the Shell: Special **5.45** Supergirl **6.40** The Flash **7.35** MacGyver **8.30** FILM: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi (1983) (U) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Mark Hamill. **11.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **12.10** A League of Their Own **1.10** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **2.05** Police 10/7 **5.05** Stop, Search, Seize

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Fish Town **9.00** The West Wing **2.00** Cold Case **4.00** House **6.00** FILM: Dinosaur 13 (2014) (PG) The true story of one of history's greatest dinosaur discoveries. **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **11.30** Real Time with Bill Maher **12.40** Banshee **2.55** Veep **4.05** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets

W SKY: 109

6.00 Traffic Cops **7.00** The Bill **12.30** EastEnders **2.30** Choccywoccydoodah **3.00** My Family **7.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Russell Brand **8.00** FILM: Chocolat (2000) (12) Drama, with Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp. **10.30** Grimm **11.30** Traffic Cops **12.50** Million Dollar Intern **1.40** Betty White's Off Their Rockers **2.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Ever Decreasing Circles **7.25** Home Shopping **7.30** Ever Decreasing Circles **8.05** As Time Goes By **9.15** Only Fools and Horses **10.20** Last of the Summer Wine **12.10** Boomers **1.25** Porridge: Inside Out **2.25** Porridge **3.30** Only Fools and Horses **8.00** Porridge **9.00** Absolutely Fabulous **11.00** Bottom **11.40** Filthy, Rich and Catflap **12.20** Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle **1.40** Eddie Izzard: Force Majeure **3.00** French and Saunders **4.20** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football Gold **6.45** Premier League World **7.15** Premier League Preview **7.45** Game Changers **8.15** The Fantasy Football Club **9.15** Premier League Preview **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Live Premier League. Pre-match build-up to Liverpool v Everton. **12.30** Live Premier League. Liverpool v Everton (kick-off 12.30pm). **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Live EFL. Reading v Leeds United (kick-off 5.30pm). **8.00** EFL Goals **8.30** Nissan Game of the Day **10.30** Nissan Match Choice **11.30** Premier League Highlights

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21/04/17
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Ireland's Northern Highlights
28/05/17
7 Days: £599
Includes 'One of the most beautiful train rides', Giants Causeway, Walking Tour of Serry, Ulster American Folk Park & Belfast.

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Call the Midwife, Canterbury & Kent
21/05/17
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Manchester Ship Canal & Lancashire Landscapes
28/05/17
5 Days: £419
Includes 6 hour Canal Cruise, Specialist Tour Guide, a day by the sea & much more!

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ABINGDON

Great Western Park £525,000

New Build in 2011 8 1900 sq/ft of Accommodation • Exceptional Finish Throughout • Four Double Bedrooms • Master En-Suite with 4 Piece Bathroom • Very Sought after Development

Central Abingdon £600,000

• Penthouse Type Apartment
• Large Open-Plan Accommodation
• 3 Double Bedrooms
• Cinema Room / Bedroom 4
• Lift Access

Long Wittenham £450,000

No Onward Chain • Show Home Quality • Exceptional Finish Throughout • Three Excellent Bedrooms • Very Sought after Village Development

South Abingdon £350,000

Extended Four Bedroom Family Home • Spacious Accommodation Throughout • South Facing Rear Garden • Short Distance to Abingdon Town Centre • Thameside Primary School Catchment

Milton Village Offers Over £400,000

No Onward Chain • New Build in 2016 • Exceptional Finish Throughout • Three Excellent Bedrooms • Very Sought after Village Development • Perfect for Milton / Harwell Business Parks

Chilton Didcot £340,000

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Central Abingdon OIEO £300,000

• Close to Town Centre
• 3 Bedrooms
• Good Transport Links
• Fantastic Family Home
• Allocated Parking

North Abingdon £335,000

Sought After North Abingdon Location • Excellent School Catchment • Fantastic Three Bedroom Family Home• finished to a High Standard Throughout

Great Western Park OIEO £215,000

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Kingston Bagpuize £250,000

•Ideal Investment Property
• Charming 1 Bed Stone Cottage
• Lovely Cottage Garden
• Working Feature Fireplace
• Excellent commuter links to Oxford M40

Central Abingdon OIEO £235,000

• Central Location
• 2 Bedrooms
• First Floor Apartment
• Allocated Parking
• Gas Central Heating

North Abingdon £230,000

• North Abingdon Location
• Two Bedrooms
• Communal Gardens
• Allocated Parking Space
• Open-Plan Living Accommodation

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BICESTER

Barry Avenue £324,000

TANDEM GARAGE

Viewing of this property is highly recommended for its versatile accommodation & room sizes to be appreciated. Situated within walking distance of the town & Bicester North station this property offers three double bedrooms.

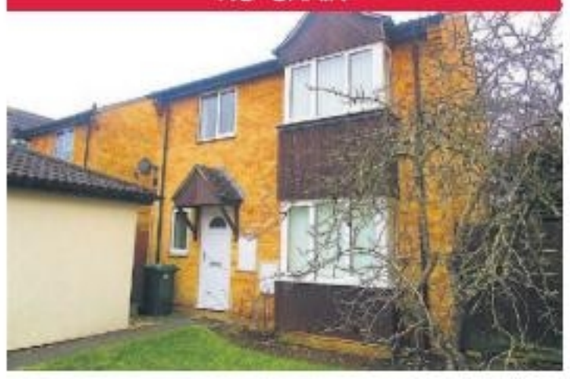
Pioneer Way £415,000

MUST VIEW

This modern & stylish town house is offered to the market with no onward chain. Set in the highly regarded Kingsmere development and in close proximity to the primary school & local amenities.

Isis Avenue £330,000

NO CHAIN



This property is three bedrooms, lounge/dining room, refitted kitchen, re-fitted bathroom, double glazed, gas central heating & comes to the market with no above chain.

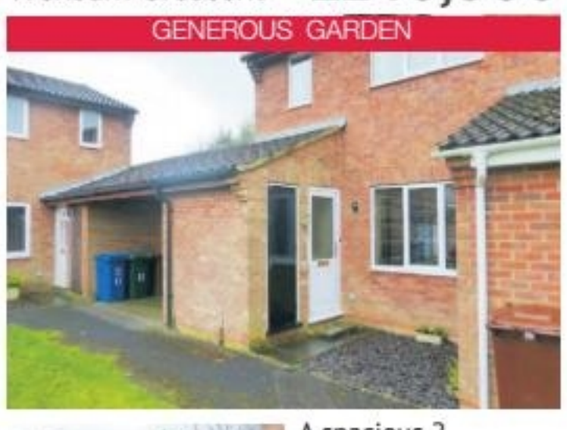
Price Close Offers in Excess £550,000

DOUBLE GARAGE

Extensive plot size four bedroom detached family home with four reception rooms with versatile accommodation, further benefiting from a double garage and spacious front and rear gardens.

Wensum Crescent £240,000

GENEROUS GARDEN



A spacious 2 bedroom END TERRACE home with 2 RECEPTION ROOMS and a GENEROUS REAR GARDEN.

Bramble Cottage £290,000

PERIOD COTTAGE

Nestled within this quiet lane in this highly regarded village is this beautiful stone built period cottage with a wealth of original features all within easy proximity of Bicester & Bicester North station. Internal viewing comes highly recommended.

Aynho Court £210,000

LOVELY GARDENS

Set in the PICTURESQUE VILLAGE OF AYNHO is this spacious first floor apartment. With a kitchen diner that offers views over open countryside, Two double bedrooms and a garage.

York Close £280,000

CUL-DE-SAC

LOCATED WITHIN COOPER SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA is this well presented home. With spacious and stylish accommodation throughout and the added benefit of an INTEGRAL GARAGE.

Sycamore Road £340,000

WALK-IN SHOWER

Located in the popular Launton development is this very well presented extended three bedroom semi-detached bungalow offering a re-fitted kitchen/dining room. This property also has gas central heating, feature wood burner fireplace, gardens and driveway.

Green Lane £389,000

LARGE GARDEN

This four bedroom, three reception room property is situated on a good size plot in Upper Arncott, refurbished to a very high standard with good versatile accommodation. Viewing is a must to be appreciated.

Hambleside £340,000

EXTENDED

This extended home has been meticulously improved by the current owner and is finished to a superb standard throughout. Set in a popular cul de sac and offering easy access to Bicester town centre all within Kings Meadow primary School Catchment.

Dunlin Court £270,000

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY: This modern 2 Bedroom home is offered to the market with tenants in situ and is within walking distance to Bicester Village Station.

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BANBURY

Middleton Cheney £599,995

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Last Remaining Plot

Banbury £210,000

EPC F
Three Bedrooms
Semi Detached
Driveway
Spacious Living Area

King Sutton £250,000

EPC D
Two Bedroom bungalow
No Onward Chain
Off Street Parking
Sought After Village Location
Spacious Rear Garden

Banbury £250,000

EPC D
Sought After Village
Close To Local Amenities
Corner Plot
Walk In Shower Room

Middleton Cheney £460,000

Four Bedroom Detached Family Home
Two Bathrooms
Two Receptions
Sought After Village Location
Built By David Wilson Homes

Banbury £230,000

EPC Awaited
Three Bedrooms
Semi Detached
Spacious Kitchen/Diner
Spacious Living Room

Banbury £120,000

EPC D
One Bedroom
First Floor Apartment
Well Maintained Throughout
Off Street Parking

Middleton Cheney £525,000

EPC C
Five Bedrooms Detached
South Facing Garden
Countryside Views
Village Location
No Onward Chain

Banbury £240,000

ECP Awaited
Timms Estate
Semi Detached
Driveway

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OXFORDSHIRE

The Capesthorpe £309,750

Help to Buy

Plot 25 - The Capesthorpe
Three Bedroom Semi-detached Home
Garage
Master Bedroom with En-suite
Part-Exchange at Market Value
£247,800 with Help to Buy•

The Didsbury Special £304,750

Help to Buy

Plot 100 The Didsbury Special
£1000 TOWARDS LEGAL FEES•
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The Winster Special £599,750

Plot 145 - The Winster Special
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The Stratford SE £629,750

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CARTERTON

SHILTON PARK **£179,950**

This property comprises of two bedrooms, a family bathroom and open plan living dining area. There is also a separate kitchen. There is one allocated parking space and visitor bays.

FARINGDON **£230,000**

Stunning two bedroom cottage in the historic market town of Faringdon offering two reception rooms, a beautiful fitted kitchen, modern family bathroom with garden to front.

SHILTON PARK **£239,950**

Large maisonette offering two large double bedrooms, a large open plan kitchen/diner, lounge, family bathroom and a single garage to the side with allocated parking to front.

SHILTON PARK **£295,000**

This fabulous three bedroom mid-terraced family house comprises of a cloakroom, kitchen/diner, family room, private lounge, three bedrooms, ensuite and a family bathroom.

SHILTON PARK **£305,000**

A beautifully presented end of terrace family home situated in the popular Shilton park development. Offering spacious living.

CARTERTON **£379,950**

Beautifully presented large family four bedroom detached home with driveway and garage located on the outskirts of Carterton.

CARTERTON **£440,000**

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SHILTON PARK **£539,950**

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WITNEY

Plot 17, Witney

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Plot 15, Witney

£295,996

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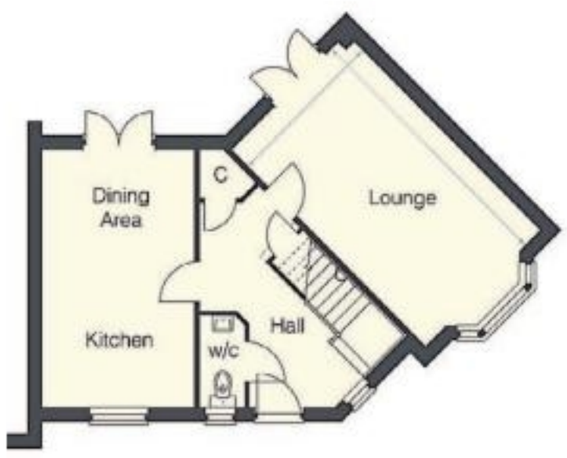

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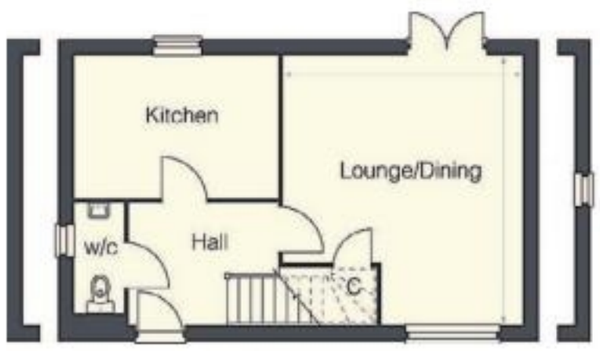

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OXFORD

Oxford **£435,000**

Generous FAMILY HOME benefiting from rear extension and newly CONVERTED LOFT. Four bedrooms, two family bathrooms, parking and gardens. Viewing advised as work to improve the property is on going.

EPC Rating: C

Blackbird Leys **Offers in Excess £325,000**

BEAUTIFULLY presented property with potential to extend over the garage (subject to planning). The property offers parking, rear garden, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom and three bedrooms.

EPC Rating: C

Blackbird Leys **£325,000**

A well maintained SEMI DETACHED house offered to the market with NO ONWARD CHAIN. If you are looking for an IMMACULATE HOUSE which you can just move into, this is a must view..!!

EPC Rating: D

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OXFORD

Littlemore — Offers in excess of £400,000

Double storey extension to rear offering spacious accommodation throughout. Finished to a good standard the property presents a GREAT FAMILY HOME, benefiting from larger than average bedrooms, bathroom & kitchen/diner.

EPC Rating: C

Berinsfield — Offers in Excess £270,000

Located within a 10 mile radius of Oxford, offering great transport links and local village amenities. This three bedroom property has been RENOVATED and presented to a high standard offering a great size living/ dining room and fitted kitchen. THIS IS A MUST VIEW PROPERTY!
EPC Rating: D

Sandford on Thames — £400,000

This FOUR bedroom semi-detached is located in the sought after village of Sandford-Upon-Thames, being within three miles to Oxford City Centre. EXTEND AND DEVELOP subject to the necessary planning. In NEED OF MODERNISATION and being sold with VACANT POSSESSION.
EPC Rating: E

Berinsfield — £290,000

DETACHED house in need of MODERNISATION priced realistically for a quick sale in the current market plus offering VACANT POSSESSION....!! The house has three double bedrooms and three reception rooms plus conservatory and cloakroom.
EPC Rating: Awaited

Kennington — Guide Price £365,000

SEMI DETACHED HOUSE with THREE BEDROOMS and two reception rooms in need of MODERNISATION. Located in the sought after village of Kennington being within close proximity to Oxford City Centre with good transport links and close to local shops and facilities.
EPC Rating: E

East Oxford — Offers in excess of £230,000

Located within walking distance to Oxford Brooke University and near the Oxford hospitals.
This is an ideal investment purchase price to attract CASH BUYERS. The lease is around 58 years remaining and rent to be achieved per calendar month would be in the region of £950.00. EPC Rating: D

Cowley — Offers in Excess £250,000

An ATTRACTIVE two bedroom 1st floor apartment situated within the Ring Road in the very well sought after development, Beauchamp Place which is within walking distance to Templars Shopping Centre. Ideal for first time buyers.
EPC Rating: C

Cowley — £350,000

The property is in need of cosmetic refurbishment, offered with parking and garage and further benefitting from No ONWARD CHAIN .

EPC Rating: E

Sandford on Thames — £95,000

Oxford park home estate provides a peaceful environment for residents over 55 years of age. The home currently offers TWO BEDROOMS and has a NEWLY INSTALLED BOILER in the kitchen, living room and shower room. Call Ox. 748448 to register your interest and book a viewing. VACANT POSSESSION SALE. EPC Exempt

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HEADINGTON

Headington **£375,000**

Available with no onward chain, this well presented property has recently been refurbished and is ideally located for access to the John Radcliffe Hospital. Within the popular Cherwell School catchment area this would make an ideal family home or investment opportunity.

Headington **£550,000**

Just a ten minute walk from the John Radcliffe hospital and with excellent transport links into Oxford centre this well presented property offers flexible, well balanced accommodation and would make an ideal family home or investment opportunity

Headington **£475,000**

Ideally located for access to the John Radcliffe Hospital and with excellent transport links into Oxford city centre this semi-detached property has off road parking and two reception rooms. In the popular Cherwell School catchment area this would make an ideal family home or investment

Risinghurst **£475,000**

This light, airy and spacious five bedroom home is finished to a high standard. With balanced accommodation over two floors this property would make an ideal family home or investment opportunity.

Headington **£500,000**

A rare opportunity to purchase a detached bungalow in the highly sought after York Avenue. Close to the amenities of central Headington with good transport links to both Oxford and London

Risinghurst **Guide Price £450,000**

This substantially extended detached property is located in the sought after area of Risinghurst. With high ceilings and original features including picture rails, open fireplaces and stripped pine floors throughout this house is an ideal investment opportunity

Yarnton **£161,250**

A beautifully presented apartment in this exclusive development for the over 55s. With under floor heating throughout and open plan living space this shared ownership home (75%) also has access to communal gardens, laundry facilities and an on site restaurant and hairdresser

Headington **OIRO £425,000**

Situated within the highly regarded gated community Dorchester Close, a well presented 3 bed duplex apartment featuring ground floor bedrooms and first floor kitchen and reception rooms.

Yarnton **OIE £310,000**

This modern, well presented property is located in the sought after village of Yarnton. Benefitting from off road parking and an enclosed rear garden, an ideal opportunity for a first time buyer or investor. Approximate ten minute drive from Oxford Parkway.

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THAME

2 Oakley Court — £235,000

A fabulous opportunity to purchase a two bedroom ground floor maisonette in one of Oxfordshire's premier villages. Walking distance to local facilities and shops, a communal garden and off street parking are just a few of the benefits of this property.

Thame — £585,000

A fabulously presented and deceptively spacious four bedroom period cottage located in the centre of Thame, with many character features spread over two floors and living accommodation in excess of1500 square feet.

Longwick — £525,000

A fantastic opportunity to purchase this marvellous large four bedroom semi-detached home located in the popular village of Longwick with countryside views to the front of the property. This home provides spacious accommodation with a good size gated driveway and large back garden.

Waterstock — £700,000

Lovingly refurbished and maintained by its current owner, the property is offered for sale with; a "farmhouse" kitchen, two well proportioned reception rooms, feature fireplace, exposed beams, mature and enclosed gardens along with off street parking.

Chinnor — £530,000

A mature five bedroom detached family home that has been successfully extended in a location with manicured corner plot gardens that enjoy a southerly aspect.

Long Crendon — £375,000

This mature three bedroom detached family home offers spacious and airy accommodation and is centrally located within the popular village of Long Crendon. Prospective purchasers should note that no onward chain is involved and that the owners selling agents can strongly advise an early internal inspection.

Brill — £600,000

A fabulous 3 bedroom detached period cottage that has been extensively modernised, upgraded and extended by the current owners to create a quintessential 'cottage in the country' in this sought after local village. This charming home combines contemporary living with an old English village feel and offers a wealth of features.

Thame — £450,000

This lovely family home has been newly extended and renovated to a high internal specification by a local builder, using local craftsmen and is offered for sale with no onward chain.

Thame — £489,950

SHOW HOME NOW OPEN PLOT 83, THE EWELME. A BRAND NEW STUNNING 3 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE BY BELLWAY HOMES ON THE HAMPDEN GARDENS DEVELOPMENT IN THAME. CALL CONNELLS NOW ON 01844 260000 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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Investing in Oxford property is a serious business – plan accordingly

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

Landlords with mature portfolios in Oxford earn very strong returns from their properties. Capital appreciation over the last five years on an average home has been £124,450 to £490,800 - that's an increase of 34 per cent. These portfolios also deliver a stronger rental yield. It is the combination of capital appreciation and the annual net rental income that combine to provide the return on investment (ROI) for a landlord.

Those who have properties that they have owned for five years or more are well positioned to cope with unexpected additional costs such as changes to mortgage interest rate relief. Whilst it is inconvenient, and dilutes earnings, it is relatively benign in its overall impact. But what about new landlords who are just starting to build their buy to let investments?

For them, life is not so stable and certain. Assessing investment returns and comparing the overall ROI to alternative investments is far more critical. At a time when Government seems intent on undermining returns from pension savings, where uncertainty resulting from Brexit seems certain to make the stock markets more volatile, and where new rules are being introduced that appear to punish owners of buy to let property, assessing options accurately and realistically has never been more important.

To help my clients with this challenge, I recently joined forces with a spreadsheet expert to create a spreadsheet model to accurately assess property investment returns for single or multiple properties. Developing the model was a real education, and proved that too often investors are prone to 'optimism bias', failing to properly allow for the costs they will incur and over-estimating their returns.

For example, investors often unintentionally overlook or underestimate the one-off costs associated with a purchase. The 'biggies' include: stamp duty (which now includes a three per cent surcharge), the cost of refurbishment and furnishings to make the property ready for market, and the costs of conveyancing. However, in Oxford there may be others particularly if you wish to apply for an HMO licence.

There are various costs that should be budgeted for annually which are routinely overlooked or underestimated. For example: service charge and ground rent for apartments, landlord insurance premiums, HMO or appliance licence renewals, lettings agent fees, and mortgage interest charges. But it is also important to budget for void periods, decorating and preventative maintenance.

When assessing capital appreciation, one should consider past performance, but it is important to be realistic in forecasting future increases, and sensible to take information from a range of sources, erring on the side of caution. This is also the case with forecasting rent increases, but here taking account of the current picture, understanding any medium-term issues that may affect rents are more important as rental markets can be more volatile over shorter time periods.

Bringing together the net rental income and capital returns (net of one-off costs) allows the investor to properly assess the returns of a property investment versus alternatives.

Using the model to plan several investments for landlords over recent weeks shows clearly what seasoned Oxford landlords know all too well - holding onto Oxford property delivers ever improving returns. The investment returns during years one to three can appear disappointing compared to alternatives, as one-off cost bear most heavily, and when rental yield is limited due to the cost of purchase. But returns compare favourably after five years, and deliver strongly between years five and 10.

For more commentary on Oxford's property market, **visit OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk.**

Four-bed detached home in Southmoor

£545,000

A stunning, recently extended four bedroom detached home in Southmoor has gone on sale.

The village is popular due to its link to the A420 within one mile.

Southmoor is a village in the civil parish of Kingston Bagpuize, about six miles west of Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Traditionally part of Berkshire, the 1974 boundary changes transferred local government to Oxfordshire. The village has a primary school and preschool, tennis club and village store. The Waggon and Horses public house is also in Southmoor.

Summary:
- Four bedrooms
- Detached
- Generous and flexible layout
- Open plan kitchen/dining room
- Double garage
- Energy efficiency rating: D

For more details contact Andrews on 01235 555553, or go to andrewsonline.co.uk.

Change of pace for Anne with new Theale apartment

When Anne Wells visited her friends, who had just moved to a new Beechcroft apartment at Cumber Place in Theale, Berkshire, she was very impressed with their new home and with the development. In fact, she was so impressed that she will shortly be moving there herself.

Cumber Place on Theale High Street is an exclusive collection of five two and three-bedroom houses and 22 new one, two and three-bedroom apartments designed for the over 55s. Each new home has been designed to provide plenty of living space but with fewer bedrooms than one would expect in a family property of a similar size.

Careful attention has been paid to the landscaped setting and both communal and private gardens will be maintained by the estate manager, who handles the day-to-day administration of the development.

The estate management service was certainly an attraction as far as Mrs Wells was concerned. After her visit to Cumber Place, Mrs Wells was gardening at her current home in Tilehurst and suddenly realised that she was tired of all the hard work.

She said: "I was on my knees, gardening, and thought 'I've had enough of this!' I've spent the last 31 years on my hands and knees working on this garden and now I want to live somewhere where I won't have to clear up leaves or deal with the moss."

With new home owners moving in, there's already a community of like-minded people at Cumber Place – and with friends already living there, Mrs Wells will soon feel at home.

"My friends are happy at Cumber Place and they moved from a house with a big garden. Visiting them made me aware of all the advantages of being in an apartment and having someone to cope with the maintenance work."

Theale is a popular village, close to the M4 and just a short drive from Reading. It offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy village life with an annual carnival and fete and a variety of clubs and societies. There's also a good range of local shops.

"The location of Cumber Place played an important role in my choice of new home," Mrs Wells added. "All the shops are within easy walking distance. In the house where I've been living for many years, I've had to climb a hill whenever I use the bus service but at Theale everything is 'on the flat' which will be useful if I'm ever in a position where I can't drive.

"Living at Cumber Place, I'll also be nearer my son and his family – Theale is about 15 minutes closer to them than Tilehurst."

All the new homes at Cumber Place come with high quality fixtures and fittings including bespoke, hand-made kitchen cabinets and a full range of integrated appliances along.

For further details on Cumber Place, where prices start from £420,000 for a three-bedroom apartment and from £460,000 for a two-bedroom house with sun room, balcony and garden, contact Selling Agents Davis Tate on 0118 984 5333, or Beechcroft's sales office on 0800 085 4550.

PROPERTY WEEKLY

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Abingdon £365,000
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Abingdon £300,000
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Spacious and well-presented three bedroom semi-detached house in the village of Steventon. EPC Rating E

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Garford £490,000
This delightful Victorian former school, brimming with character and charm set within a circa quarter acre plot with westerly open views towards the Ridgeway. EPC - E

Whitecross £375,000
A superbly presented semi-detached bungalow sold with no onward chain. Three bedrooms, a generous open plan kitchen/dining/family room and a family bathroom. EPC - C

Abingdon on Thames £260,000
An attractive two double bedroom, 2nd floor apartment: two bathrooms, kitchen/diner and parking. An ideal first time or investment purchase. EPC - B

Dry Sandford
Offering a pleasant open aspect, a detached family home boasting generous and flexible accommodation over two floors. Comprising: hall, two bay fronted ground floor rooms, dining room, sitting room, conservatory, bathroom and a beautifully refitted kitchen with separate utility. The first floor has three bedrooms and a second bathroom. A substantial driveway provides off road parking for six cars, side access leads to the rear garden with a lawn, vegetable patch and decked areas. EPC - E

£565,000

Southmoor
A breathtaking family home of an exceptional standard. The spacious entrance hall leads through to the triple aspect sitting room, with wood stove and French doors to the rear garden. An open plan contemporary kitchen with granite worktops and ample space for both dining and family areas. An oak staircase rises to the first floor to five double bedrooms, the master and guest room with en suites and the family bathroom. Double garage and off road parking to the front and a private rear garden. EPC - B

£865,000 Guide Price

North Abingdon £465,000
An extended, double fronted bungalow, with versatile accommodation. Three bedrooms, three receptions and scope for further enlargement, subject to any necessary consents. EPC - D

Wootton £365,000
Sold with no onward chain, an extended four bedroomed, semi-detached home located on the edge of the village of Wootton, close to good schooling and access to Oxford EPC - D

Radley £725,000
A well presented four bedroomed family home, overlooking open fields. Three reception rooms and a fabulous loft conversion. A mature rear garden, ample parking and a garage. EPC - C

Abingdon on Thames £175,000
An immaculately presented apartment with one bedroom, a lounge/diner and a refitted kitchen, in a select and popular development for residents over the age of 55 years. EPC - C

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Abingdon Lettings 01235 554040 breckon.co.uk

Abingdon £1,400 pcm

A stunning two bedroom apartment in this exclusive development with secure parking and access to residents only gym. Unfurnished.
EPC RATING: B

Abingdon £785 pcm

A studio apartment in this modern apartment block, located on the North side of Abingdon. Rent includes utilities. Furnished.

Abingdon £675 pcm

A en-suite bedroom with a private shower room offering great access to Oxford & Milton Park. Rent includes utilities. Furnished.

Abingdon

A modern and tastefully refurbished first floor two bedroom apartment located in Milton Heights close to the A34, convenient for commuting either north or south of Oxfordshire. Unfurnished.
EPC RATING: C

£895 pcm

Abingdon £925 pcm

A delightful ground floor apartment perfectly located for the Abingdon Business Park, Fairacres Retail Park and offering great access to the A34. Private entrance, two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom. Neutral decor throughout. Allocated parking. Communal garden. Unfurnished.
EPC RATING: C

Contact our Abingdon Lettings office

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3 BED — **ABINGDON**

No onward chain. A SPACIOUS semi detached house in this POPULAR DEVELOPMENT of Caldecott Chase. Excellently located for local schools, and Abingdon town centre. The property has recently had a new boiler fitted. **£330,000**

3 BED — **ABINGDON**

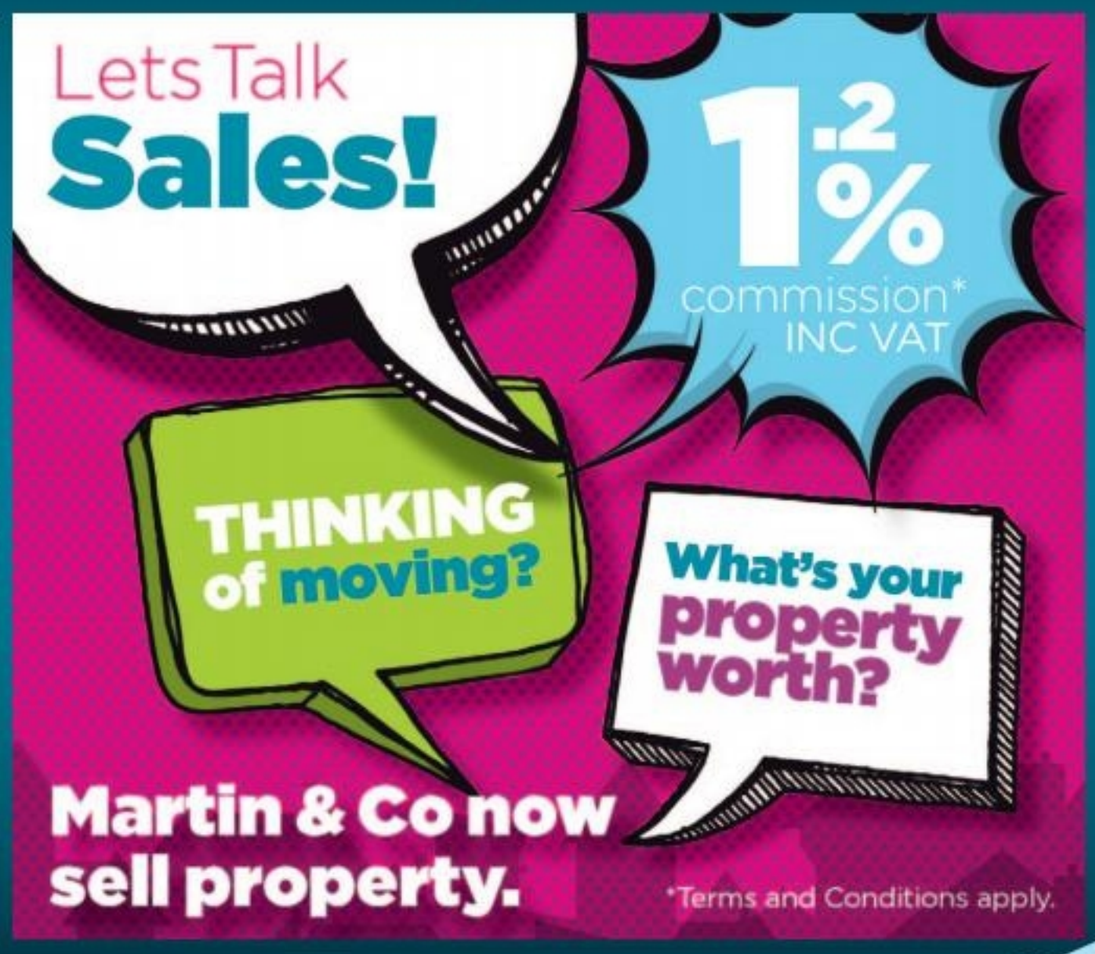
A 3 Bedroom semi-detached HOUSE situated close to ABINGDON town centre. The property is offered in an immaculate condition. The property offers off street parking. Internal viewings advised! **£290,000**

2 BED — **ABINGDON**

A MODERN 2 double bedroom APARTMENT with 2 bathrooms. It also includes a good sized modern kitchen, located above a wedding shop with private access and paved garden. **£249,950**

3 BED — **CHALGROVE**

This fabulous three bed SEMI DETACHED house CHALGROVE offers spacious living and benefits from a garage and garden. The property comes with gas central heating, new gas boiler, and can be offered with no onward chain. **£328,000**



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2 BED — **MILTON, ABINGDON**

A well presented DETACHED BUNGALOW located in the village of MILTON, ABINGDON. The property offers spacious living accommodation and benefits from off road PARKING and a GARAGE. Internal photos coming soon! **£995 PCM**

2 BED — **DORCHESTER ON THAMES**

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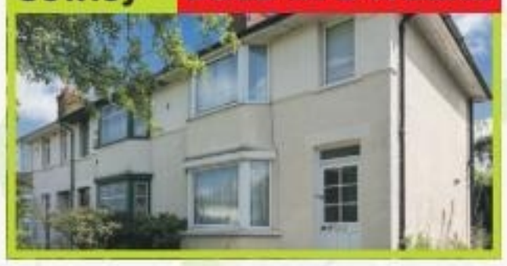

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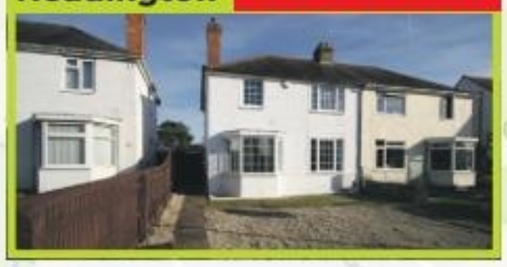

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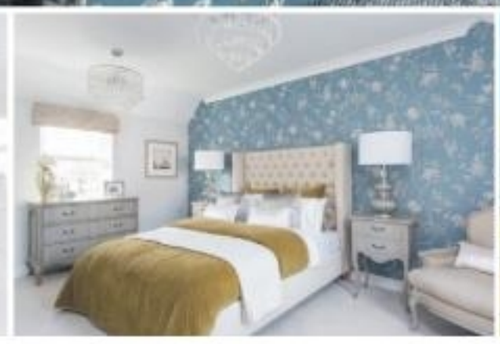

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Sunday April 2nd

DAYTIME

BBC1

7.25 Match of the Day (S)(R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show** (S) **10.00 The Big Questions** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News** (S) **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **2.10 Countryfile Spring Diaries** (S)(R) **2.55 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **3.20 Songs of Praise** (S) **4.00 Rowing: The Boat Races** (S) **6.25 BBC News** (S) **6.40 BBC Regional News** (S) **6.50 Countryfile** (S)

BBC2

8.45 Countryfile (S)(R) **9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.15 Nigel Slater: Eating Together** (S)(R) **11.45 Simply Nigella** (S)(R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra** (S) **1.00 World Figure Skating Championships** (S) **3.00 When Danny Won the Masters** (S) **3.30 Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman** (S)(R) **4.00 The House That £100K Built** (S)(R) **5.00 Flog It!** (S)(R) **6.00 Inside the Factory: Cereal** (S)(R)

ITV

9.25 ITV News (S) **9.30 Countrywise: Guide to Britain** (S)(R) **10.00 Secret Dealers** (S)(R) **11.00 Wild Australia with Ray Mears** (S)(R) **11.30 ITV News;** Weather (S) **11.45 FILM From Russia with Love (1963) (PG)** (S) **2.00 The Voice UK** (S)(R) **3.50 Little Big Shots** (S)(R) **4.55 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule** (S)(R) **5.30 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.40 ITV News** (S) **6.00 Five Gold Rings** (S)

Channel 4

6.20 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **1.50 Gogglesprogs** (S)(R) **2.55 FILM Gulliver's Travels (2010) (PG)** Fantasy comedy, starring Jack Black. (S) **4.30 FILM Night at the Museum (2006) (PG)** Fantasy comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Robin Williams. (S) **6.35 Channel 4 News** (S)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.45 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S) **10.20 Football on 5: The Championship** (S)(R) **11.05 Football on 5: Goal Rush** (S)(R) **11.35 The Gadget Show** (S)(R) **12.35 Police Interceptors** (S)(R) **1.35 FILM Operation: Daybreak (1975) (15)** (S) **3.50 FILM The Four Feathers (2002) (15)** (S) **6.15 5 News Weekend** (S) **6.20 Inside Kensington Palace** (S)(R)

7

7.00 Robot Wars Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the final heat. (S)

7.00 The Voice UK Conclusion of the two-part final. Last in the series. (S)

7.00 Titanic: The New Evidence New theories on the reason the Titanic sank. (S)(R)

7.05 Inside Buckingham Palace Part two of two. Reflecting on the symbol of everything British. (R)

8

8.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce presents the show from Caversham Park, near Reading. (S)

8.00 Top Gear Chris Harris and Sabine Schmitz compete in a buggy race across the Californian desert, and Matt LeBlanc test drives the Ford GT.

8.00 Vera The detective investigates when a student falls to his death in mysterious circumstances. (S)

8.00 Spying on the Royals Part one of a two-part documentary examining surveillance conducted on Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. (S)

8.00 Disobedient Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud Compilation of internet videos featuring dogs doing humorous things. (S)

9

9.00 Line of Duty A new DCI is placed in charge of Operation Trapdoor as evidence that an innocent man has been convicted emerges. (S)

9.00 Turkey with Simon Reeve Part two of two. Simon travels along the Black Sea Coast to the capital of Ankara. (S)

9.00 Homeland Dar plays his hand and Quinn revisits his past. (S)

9.00 The Michael McIntyre Story Documentary about the comedian's rise to fame. (S)

10

10.00 BBC News (S)
10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)
10.30 Match of the Day 2 Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action. (S)

10.00 Live at the Apollo With Joe Lycett, Ivo Graham and Phil Wang. (S)(R)
10.45 FILM Dead Poets Society (1989) (PG) (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.15 The Nightly Show Best Bits Highlights from the fifth week of the entertainment show. (S)
10.45 FILM Hard Target (1993) (18) (S)

10.05 Gogglebox The households' opinions on recent TV. (S)(R)

10.30 20 Moments That Shocked Comedy Countdown of memorable comedy moments. (S)(R)

11

11.35 I'm Different: Let Me Drive New series. Stories of learner drivers with disabilities. (S)

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts the hybrid comedy panel quiz show. (S)(R)

AFTER 12

12.05 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **12.10** BBC News (S)

12.50 Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **1.50** Holby City (S)(R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two (S)

12.30 Jackpot247 3.00 The Cube (S)(R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

12.00 FILM Seven Psychopaths (2012) (15) (S) **2.00** The Last Leg (S)(R) **2.55** Great British Buildings: Restoration of the Year (S)(R) **3.50** Building the Dream (S) **4.45** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures (S)(R) **5.05** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R)

12.00 Football League Tonight: The Checkatrade Trophy (S) **12.45** Police Interceptors: Takedown (S)(R) **1.10** SuperCasino **3.10** Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild (S)(R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Emmerdale **8.40** Coronation Street **11.05** The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Fame High **1.55** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.10** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.40** The Hot Desk: Emma Willis **2.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.20** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **4.55** FILM: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) (U) Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway. **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** FILM: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) (U) Concluded. **7.15** FILM: Liar Liar (1997) (12) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** FILM: Liar Liar (1997) (12) Concluded. **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **1.20** The Vampire Diaries **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 On the Buses **6.25** FILM: The Baby and the Battleship (1956) (U) British comedy, starring John Mills. **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** FILM: The Baby and the Battleship (1956) (U) Concluded. **8.25** Heartbeat **10.30** Murder, She Wrote **11.30** Heidi **1.45** Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Les Dawson: An Audience With That Never Was **10.00** Les Dawson Forever **11.05** FILM: Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) (PG) Comedy, starring Harry H Corbett and Wilfrid Brambell. **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** FILM: Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) (PG) Concluded. **1.10** Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **2.50** May the Best House Win **4.35** On the Buses **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Dame Vera Lynn: Happy 100th Birthday **8.00** Giselle: Belle of the Ballet **9.00** Do We Really Need the Moon? **10.00** Gravity and Me: The Force That Shapes Our Lives **11.30** Sex: A Horizon Guide **12.30** The Story of Maths **1.30** The Century That Wrote Itself **2.30** How to Get Ahead: At Versailles **3.30** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube **6.25** Couples Come Dine with Me **8.25** Hollyoaks **11.00** Made in Chelsea **12.00** FILM: Clueless (1995) (12) Comedy, starring Alicia Silverstone. **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.30** Black-ish **4.00** Baby Daddy **4.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** Celebrity First Dates **12.05** Naked Attraction **1.10** Gogglebox **2.15** Bizarre ER **3.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.50** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Vet on the Hill **10.00** Walks with My Dog **11.00** Homes by the Med **12.05** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.25** Come Dine with Me **8.00** How to Lose Weight Well **9.00** FILM: Gladiator (2000) (15) Oscar-winning Roman epic, starring Russell Crowe. **12.05** 24 Hours in A&E **1.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **2.10** How to Lose Weight Well **3.15** 8 Out of 10 Cats **3.55** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 My Darling Clementine (1946) (PG) Western, starring Henry Fonda. **1.00** Love Happens (2009) (12) Romantic drama, starring Jennifer Aniston and Aaron Eckhart. **3.10** The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) (PG) Sherlock Holmes mystery, starring Peter Cushing. **4.55** The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) (12) Fantasy adventure, starring Alexander Ludwig. **6.55** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) (15) Comedy, starring Matthew Broderick. **9.00** Chef (2014) (15) Comedy, starring Jon Favreau. **11.15** Blood Ties (2013) (15) Crime drama, starring Clive Owen and Billy Crudup. **1.45** Weekend (2011) (18) Romantic drama, with Tom Cullen and Chris New. **3.50** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Deadly 60 **7.40** Traffic Cops **8.40** Top Gear **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **11.00** Traffic Cops **12.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **1.00** Lizard Lick Towing **2.00** Red Dwarf **4.00** Top Gear **7.00** Traffic Cops **8.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **9.00** Live at the Apollo **10.00** Taskmaster **11.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **12.00** Crackanory **12.30** Mock the Week **1.50** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **2.40** Taskmaster **3.30** Crackanory **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 New Tricks **8.00** The Bill **12.00** A Fine Romance **12.40** The Lost World **4.00** Catherine Cookson's The Fifteen Streets **6.20** A Fine Romance **7.00** New Tricks **9.00** Silent Witness **11.10** Spooks **1.50** Catherine Cookson's The Fifteen Streets **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Futurama **9.30** Supergirl **10.30** The Flash **11.30** WWE Raw Hlts **12.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. The build-up to Swansea City v Middlesbrough. **1.30** Ghost in the Shell: Special **2.00** Modern Family **6.00** The Simpsons **8.00** Wild Things **9.00** Hawaii Five-0. The team is forced to deal with an aggressive US marshal. **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** MacGyver **12.00** The Blacklist: Redemption **1.00** Arrow **2.00** Police 10/7

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Fish Town **9.00** The West Wing **2.00** House **4.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Big Little Lies **10.05** Real Time with Bill Maher **11.15** The Circus: Inside the Greatest Political Show on Earth **11.50** Fortitude **12.50** Billions **2.00** Westworld **3.15** Banshee **4.15** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets

W SKY: 109

6.00 Boston's Finest **6.50** Traffic Cops **7.50** Bondi Rescue **8.20** Celebrity MasterChef **1.00** Doctor Who **7.00** One Born Every Minute **8.00** Dr Christian Will See You Now **9.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Russell Brand **10.00** Murdered By My Father **11.40** Louis Theroux's LA Stories **1.00** The Musketeers **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.20 Ever Decreasing Circles **7.50** One Foot in the Grave **9.10** Only Fools and Horses **11.10** Boomers **12.30** Porridge **1.35** Only Fools and Horses **4.50** Porridge **5.45** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Absolutely Fabulous **11.00** I'm Alan Partridge **12.20** The Thick of It **1.40** Nighty Night **2.25** jam **3.30** The Smell of Reeves and Mortimer **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Premier League Highlights **9.00** The Sunday Supplement **10.30** Goals on Sunday **12.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. The build-up to Swansea City v Middlesbrough. **1.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Swansea City v Middlesbrough (kick-off 1.30pm). **3.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Arsenal v Manchester City (kick-off 4.00pm). **7.00** EFL Goals **7.30** Live La Liga Football. Granada v Barcelona (kick-off 7.45pm). **9.30** EFL Goals **10.00** Premier League Highlights **11.00** Goals on Sunday **12.00** Premier League Highlights **1.00** EFL Goals **1.30** Premier League 100 Club **2.00** Premier League Years **4.00** Premier League Highlights **5.00** Goals on Sunday

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Advertorial

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This May sees the return of Geopace Training to Oxford with their two day phlebotomy training course.

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Many people enter this profession when they are looking for a career change or a fresh start. Phlebotomists often work part-time (mornings) but some do work full-time as well as weekends and holidays. Blood samples are usually collected before mid-day and then analysed in the Path Labs in the afternoon.

"We train people from all walks of life and all ages." explains Jennie Eagleton, office manager. *"We've had shop assistants, receptionists, beauticians and dental nurses, as well as telesales staff, unemployed, school leavers and the retired."* says Jennie.

Once on the healthcare career ladder ambition often drives people to progress to working in the labs and to other specialised departments. Internal promotion is much easier once you are 'on the ladder' and have some experience.

Many hundreds of Geopace trainees are now working as phlebotomists and a few have even chosen to work abroad where there is often a shortage and growing demand for this specialised skill.

If you like the idea of a career in healthcare then this may be just the job for you! Training takes place over two full days and culminates in the award of a nationally recognised and accredited certificate. "We practice on artificial arms," says Jennie. "And all our students have a lot of fun learning. We get a great deal of satisfaction when we later learn that they are working in their local hospital or GP Surgery."

If you would like to know more about phlebotomy as a career or to book a place on the course in Oxford (or Basingstoke) visit the Geopace Training website at www.geopace.com

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Don't be caught at outside edge!

By James Richings

WHAT could be more English than a game of cricket of a sunny afternoon?

Into this quintessential mix add the lives of nine people.

Based on the popular play Outside Edge written by Richard Harris in 1979, Outside Edge meshes the lives of Roger, Miriam, Kevin, Maggie, Bob, Ginnie, Dennis, Alex and Sharon.

It's a glorious summer Saturday afternoon and an important local cricket match is under way.

But while Roger, the team captain is trying to keep his men focused on the game, there is slow-burning meltdown among their wives and girlfriends in the kitchen.

Concentrating on how many runs they need to score, all the cricketers can hear are squabbles from nearby which is putting them off their game.

Will it get resolved and will Roger's team win the match?

Peter Smithson from Goring, who will play Roger in the production at Wallingford Corn Exchange said: "My character is an organised controlled total male chauvinist pig who relies on his wife but won't admit it.

"All that is important to him is winning. He loves his wife but not so much as when he's trying to win a game of cricket."

Performed by the amateur dramatics group Sinodun Players, this is the volunteers' first production since their successful Rapunzel in January.

The Players' adaptations of well-known plays, stories and fairy tales have proved to be incredibly popular, but this show has a lot of importance to Peter.

Peter played the same character in the same production but with a different theatre company 17 years ago. His first run as Roger back in 2000 was only the second time he had ever been on stage and was his first lead role.

The experience whetted his appetite for more and has since clocked up 68 roles since with several local societies including Sinodun Players, Goring Gap Players and Chiltern Players.

"After nearly 17 years and with more experience, I'm hoping to do far more justice to the role than when I first played it," Peter said.

"It is a very funny play with characters people can definitely relate to. I'm really looking forward to playing Roger again – I can still remember the lines from the first time!"

Director Gloria Wright added: "The amount of laughter from the cast at our first read-through bodes well for this play and I know audiences will enjoy it as much as they did when we first performed it.

"We have a great cast and a fantastic set design and we're looking forward to introducing it to a new generation of theatregoers."

The play runs until Saturday April 1 at 7.45pm and tickets cost £10.

Sam's hoping to make a connection

SAM Brookes is a man in demand.

After he burst onto the acoustic scene with his debut self-titled album in 2011, Sam gained even more fans and praise when his follow-up record Kairos was released in 2014.

So after three long years, Sam's fans have had to wait patiently to hear new material.

But this wait is over at the end of April, as the musician starts his UK tour, with Sam visiting The Cellar on Monday, May 8.

His gig is not for another six weeks, but tickets are expected to sell out.

"After completing my last album, I wanted to explore incorporating more groove into my song writing," Sam told the Guardian.

"I started working with electronic beats to write alongside and then the sonic pallet started to evolve.

"And I never played there before so I'm very much looking forward to it."

He added: "I love the connection that is made with an audience.

"This is the best thing about me performing as it becomes a great shared experience."

Tickets at the Frewin Court venue cost £8.80 and it starts at 7.30pm.

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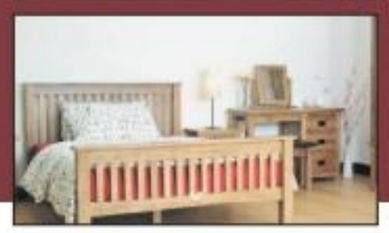

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Queen it up at drag show!

By James Richings

EXPECT the unexpected when a burlesque and drag show arrives at The Bullingdon.

Returning to the Cowley Road venue for the third time on Friday, April 7 will be OxPHWOARd – a unique show which combines burlesque and drag with the show hoping to bring people together, regardless of sexual preference.

It was created by female drag queen Ginger Tart, who told the Guardian the show 'is for everyone' and has 'no rules'. The show is suitable for over 18s.

"OxPHWOARd is a feel-good party without any rules," Ginger told the Guardian.

"Everyone is welcome to celebrate themselves in an explosion of glittering burlesque and drag.

She added: "This show is absolutely for everyone and I think it will particularly resonate with anyone who's ever felt like a misfit or that they don't fit in.

"Ultimately, I believe that it's an empowering experience for anyone to see people on stage eschewing rules about gender, age and what it means to be sexy.

"Anyone who is interested in any of those ideas will appreciate this show."

Traditional drag queens are men dressing up as women to entertain the public, but Ginger wanted to break that mould by performing as a female drag queen.

Working in burlesque too, the entertainer wanted to combine the two for a show that cabaret and drag enthusiasts can both enjoy.

This lead to the creation of OxPHWOARd and the show Ginger will be hosting and taking part in.

She said: "For me, drag and burlesque are two art forms that are all about defying expectations, breaking the rules and expressing yourself.

"It feels so right to combine these twin art forms into a show about self love. We are under so much pressure to look and act certain ways, that you have to be young and thin to be beautiful, you have to be sexy but not too sexy, if you're a man you can't be feminine, that gender is binary and that sexuality is something to be hidden away. These 'rules' make people feel so self-conscious.

"They can lead to so much insecurity, so I'm using drag and burlesque as a way to smash these expectations to the ground and show that life is much more fun and empowering if you stop caring about the rules and just be your own fabulous self."

Tickets cost from £10 to £15 and it starts at 8pm.

Ginger Tart in action
Photo by Ebony Holden1

Get your appetite

MUSIC: Welsh rock band Feeder will be gigging at the O2 Academy on Monday.

Made up of Grant Nicholas and Taka Hirose, the duo will perform tunes off their latest album All Bright Electric, which came out in September. Tickets cost £25.87 and doors open at 7pm.

The music of poetry

POETRY: Poet Richard McGough will be at the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot on Saturday.

He arrives at the Station Road venue with the band Little Machine, where he'll recite his poems to the group's relaxing music.

It begins at 7.30pm and tickets cost £16, £14 for concessions.

Jewel of a singer

MUSIC: Singer Caro Emerald will be at the New Theatre on Saturday, April 8.

The 35-year-old will perform tunes off her two previous albums Deleted Scenes from the Cutting Room Floor and The Shocking Miss Emerald. She will also tease the George Street audience with snippets off her new album, which she is in the process of recording.

The concert starts at 7pm and tickets cost £26.65.

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Daren Fisher – Millets Farm.

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+ Lonely The Brave
+ Fatherson

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Jo's unusual inspiration

By James Richings

AFTER her popular 'Uninformed Opinions' tour in 2015, comedian Jo Caulfield is back.

The 51-year-old is currently embarking on her new show The Customer is Always Wrong, which tomorrow (Friday).

This will be Jo's first Oxfordshire visit since September when she gigged at Didcot's Cornerstone Arts Centre.

She told the Guardian that the inspiration behind her show came after a bizarre encounter at a bed store.

"I've had a lot of strange customer service recently," she said.

"I was looking at new beds and the salesman suggested I lay down and try out the mattress.

"When I said I couldn't decide without my husband beside me, the salesman insisted he lie down beside me and play the part of my husband!

"I kept thinking 'Is this normal?'"

Now one of the leading female faces on the UK comedy circuit, Jo's journey to becoming a top comedian was not the easiest one.

After moving from her native Wales to London to pursue a short-lived music career in her late teens, Jo decided that comedy was the way forward.

The aspiring comic took a job as a waitress, saved up her tips, bought a small mic and amp, and opened her own comedy club in Hampstead.

It was at her club that she was to meet her future partner, with the couple agreeing that if their plan to become comedians did not materialise within the next two years, they would pack it in and find another career path.

But the club grew and before she knew it, Jo was writing gags for the likes of Graham Norton and BBC Radio 4.

She has since appeared on numerous TV shows such as Mock the Week, and Have I Got News For You, while regularly appearing at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Having worked on both TV and stage, Jo revealed her preference.

"TV sets are rehearsed so if you make a mistake, they simply re-do it or edit the mistake out," she said.

"Live comedy is an exciting art form as anything can happen.

"You never know where the audience interaction is going to take the show. It's a beautiful shared experience.

"I know where I want to take the audience, and they've put the trust in me to lead them anywhere."

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15.50 or £13.50 for concessions.

Get on board

FILM: Last year's popular film The Girl on the Train will be screened at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury on Tuesday, April 4.

Starring Emily Blunt, Rachel is devastated by her recent divorce and spends her daily commute fantasizing about the perfect couple who live in a house that her train passes every day. One morning she sees something shocking happen there and becomes entangled in the mystery that unfolds.

It begins at 7pm, tickets cost £6.

Knoxing on the door

MUSIC: Rock band Mallory Knox will be at the O2 Academy on Tuesday, April 4.

The five-piece band from Cambridge will perform tracks off their latest album Wired. Tickets cost £18.56 and doors open at 7pm.

Letters on show

THEATRE: A play about regret, advice and reminiscing will be performed at the Burton Taylor Studios on Tuesday, April 4.

Created from letters written by real people, Letters to Myself is the best advice we people never received when they needed it the most.

This is suitable for over 16s and starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10.

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Step 4.

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Visit the cat! When you have met the cat/kitten and if you're happy that this is the right cat for you and your family, you can adopt him/her right away! The fee for adoption is Â£40.00. Each cat and kitten in our care have all had at least one veterinary check, flea treatment, and worming. Additionally, all cats over 5 months old are neutered before being re-homed. However, please note that this fee is a minimum donation. The true cost of feeding, caring for, veterinary treatment, spaying/neutering can be considerably more and we always welcome a further donation.

Step 6.

Take your kitty home! The fosterer will advise you when you pick up your cat/kitten of its routine, food, last date of flea and worm treatment, and any other pertinent information. They are always happy to speak to you regarding any concerns, advice, or even just an update on how your new family member is getting on.

This may sound like a long process, but in reality the process can move quite quickly. Our main priority is to place the right cat or kitten in the right forever home.

We have lots of beautiful cats and kittens in need of a loving home.
If you would like to adopt, check out our website www.sunshinecatrescue.org.uk for details of all our cats & kittens, or phone Lou on 01993 831279.

Thank you for caring.

Sunshine Cat Rescue

ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Bicester Village Job Fair

Join Bicester Village at the John Paul II Centre in Bicester on Wednesday 5 April, from 4 pm until 6.30 pm. We are looking for candidates who can bring passion to a luxury, fast-moving retail environment. A number of boutiques and restaurants are seeking enthusiastic candidates who would like a new challenge or are looking to return to work. Retail experience is not essential – but passion is.

For more information and to register, visit BicesterVillage.com/jobfair

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For press releases about forthcoming events please email events@taylornewspapers.co.uk - (photos welcome) - specifying the area that the event is taking place in and we will do our best to promote it for you, space permitting, in one or more of our newspapers.

Tue, Mar 28 – Sat, Apr 1
New Theatre, Oxford
GREASE
Dust off your leather jackets, pull on your bobby-socks and take a trip to a simpler time as Danny and Sandy fall in love all over again.

Mon, Apr 3
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
HEADS UP
A city. Just like this. Right now. A teenage girl boils with rage in a toilet cubicle. A finance worker preaches doom in a busy train station. An absurd coke-addled celebrity races through town on a mission. A paranoid stoner stares blankly at the endless disasters on the TV news. In just one moment, all their worlds will end.

Mon, Apr 3 – Sat, Apr 8
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
ABIGAIL'S PARTY
Amanda Abbington stars in Mike Leigh's undisputed classic, Abigail's Party.
It's 40 years since the appalling Beverly first put Donna Summer on the turntable, stacked a plate with little cheesy-pineapple sticks, plied her guests with alcohol, cigarettes and Demis Roussos and slow-danced her way across the shag-pile into theatrical history. The drinks party from hell begins when she and husband Laurence invite round new neighbours, Tony and Ange, along with nervous divorcee Sue; jittery about the bash her teenage daughter, Abigail, is throwing up the road. As that party reportedly gets out of hand, this one too descends into chaos, and comedy, as drama and tragedy combine into an iconic piece of theatre.
Amanda Abbington is best-known for playing Mary Morstan in Sherlock, Miss Mardle in Mr Selfridge and DS Jo Moffat in Cuffs. Directed by Sarah Esdaile (Talking Heads, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof), this new production of Mike Leigh's legendary play is as hilarious and horribly compelling as ever.

Fri, Apr 7, 7.30pm
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
JOHN OSBOURNE: 3 STORIES FROM RADIO 4
John Osborne has written and performed several spellbinding half-hour storytelling shows for Radio 4. They are funny, heartwarming and a masterclass in how to keep an audience captivated.

Sat, Apr 8, 11am & 2pm
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
THREE
Watch as these flamboyant players burst from their wagon of forgotten fables to re-tell such stories as Rumpelstiltskin, Goldilocks and Grimm's Three Wanderers. These classic stories are brought to life with a flurry of original sing-a-long songs, live music and inventive storytelling.

Tue, Apr 28 – Sat, Apr 22
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
PYGMALION

Sat, Apr 8, 7pm
New Theatre, Oxford
CARO EMERALD
Since the release of her 2010 multi-platinum debut album 'Deleted Scenes From The Cutting Room Floor' Caro Emerald has fashioned her own niche. Gorgeous and stylish, Caro blends retro jazz with sampling and modern pop to create her signature sound.

Fri, Apr 14, 8pm
The Beacon, Wantage,
THE ZOOTS
Experience THE Sixties show that's wowing audiences around the world, and headlining venues from the Palladium to Old Trafford - with the spectacular sounds of The Zoots

Tue, Apr 18, 7pm
New Theatre, Oxford
BILLY OCEAN
Currently on an international tour, Billy Ocean will be appearing in Oxford in April 2017 where he will be performing all of his greatest hits from the new album and favourite tracks.

Tue Apr 18 – Sat, Apr 22
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
PYGMALION
Over one hundred years after it was written, this radical new production explores one of the most celebrated comedies of the 20th century, Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion.

Wed, Apr 19, 7pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
JOSH DOYLE
After making the move to Nashville, alt-rock singer songwriter Josh Doyle, formerly of the British band Dum Dums, is back for a UK tour.

Fri, Apr 21, 6.30pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
BETTER THAN NEVER & COAST TO COAST
Birmingham pop punk band, Coast to Coast announce their new EP, The Length Of A Smile, as they come to O2 Academy Oxford. With support from Better Than Nothing and One State Drive.

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MONEY MATTERS

Spring Budget

The Chancellor announced borrowing would be cut and allocated additional money for social care, the NHS and education.

Included in these measures is Tax-Free Childcare and this will provide childcare support for every child under 12. For every 80p contribution made by a parent (or someone else) the government will add a 20p top up. The maximum top up per year will be £2,000. For a disabled child, this will be increased to £4,000 up to the age of 17.

Working parents will be able to apply for an extra 15 hours of free childcare for three and four year olds, making the total 30 hours per week. Parents will need to be working and each earning at least £120 per week but less than £100,000 per annum.

The scheme is open to everyone and is not reliant on employers offering it. It is also open to the self-employed.

From April 2017, a three-year NS&I Investment Bond will be available with an interest rate of 2.2%. The bond will be available for 12 months and will be open to everyone aged 16 and over. Savings of £100 to £3,000 can be saved over the 3 years.

Younger adults can save up to £4,000 per annum in the Lifetime ISA, which will attract a bonus of up to £1,000 a year. Withdrawals can be made tax-free to put towards a first home or saved until a person turns 60.

The tax-free dividend allowance will be reduced from £5,000 to £2,000 from April 2018.

Small businesses and landlords below the VAT threshold will have an extra year to get ready for 'Making Tax Digital' i.e. until April 2019. If turnover is below £10,000 there will be an exemption from MTD reporting. Other businesses and landlords will need to start their quarterly reporting from the accounting period beginning on or after the following dates:

• 6 April 2018 – where turnover exceeds the VAT registration threshold. All income and expenses subject to income tax and Class 4 NIC will need to be reported.

• 6 April 2019 – where turnover exceeds £10,000. All income and expenses subject to income tax and Class 4 NIC will need to be reported.

• 1 April 2019 – where a business is VAT registered. VAT information will need to be reported via MTD.

• 1 April 2020 – where a business pays corporation tax. All income and expenses subject to corporation tax will need to be reported.

There will be no increase in National Insurance rates.

From April 2017, the personal allowance will be increased to £11,500 and the higher rate threshold will be £45,000 (£43,000 for Scottish taxpayers). The annual capital gains tax exemption will increase to £11,300. The new inheritance tax nil rate band of £100,000 is available from April 2017.

Property Income Update

Where your net income (after allowable expenses) from property letting is less than £2,500 a year and you have no other reason to submit a tax return then HMRC must be advised by letter.

Letting income must be reported on a self-assessment tax return if it is:

• £2,500 to £9,999 after allowable expenses

• £10,000 or more before allowable expenses

From April 2017, any allowable interest on residential properties will be restricted. For the 2017-18 tax year only 75% can be claimed and this will continue to reduce to 0% by 2020-21. The other 25% interest will attract basic rate relief

A tax-free amount of £7,500 a year can be earned from a lodger under the Government's Rent a Room Scheme. The room must be furnished and in your own home i.e. the landlord must be resident in the same house. Services can be provided such as meals and cleaning.

Self-Starter Allowance

From April 2017, a further £2,000 a year can be earned tax-free from 'odd jobs' such as renting out your home to tourists, renting out your business premises, home or any other property for business purposes, doing tasks, e.g. cleaning or odd jobs, renting out your personal equipment, e.g. power tools.

Cash Basis

Taxable profits for unincorporated businesses have been able to opt for simplified cash accounting, but from April 2017 three methods of the cash basis will be introduced. Each will have different rules for trading businesses, let property businesses, and self-employed universal credit claimants.

Trading businesses will see an increase in the entry threshold for cash basis from £83,000 to £150,000, and the exit threshold will increase to £300,000. Also from April 2017 capital items rules will be simplified. The entry and exit turnover thresholds for universal credit claimants will increase to £300,000. For a trading business, an election can be made to use the cash basis by ticking a box on the tax return for the year.

For unincorporated property businesses with annual turnover up to £150,000 a different form of the cash basis will be the default method of accounting Where a taxpayer prefers the accruals basis of accounting for his property business, an election to opt out of the cash basis must be made. Both the entry and exit threshold for this form of the cash basis has been set at £150,000 but this is still a draft law at the moment. The deduction for interest and finance charges is restricted if the value of connected loans on the property business exceed the property values when first let, plus any additions.

Company Car

The taxable benefit is calculated as a percentage of the list price of the car, on the day before it was first registered, plus certain accessories. This percentage depends upon the rate at which the car emits carbon dioxide (CO_2), and the fuel type. The same percentage is multiplied by a fixed sum to calculate the fuel benefit charge.

Mobile Phones

There is no charge to tax where one mobile phone is provided to an employee, or any line rental or cost of private calls for that phone is paid for by the employer. A mobile phone provided to a member of an employee's household is always taxable unless that individual is also an employee.

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The above points have been highlighted by Peter Smith, a partner at The MGroup Partnership, an efficient and friendly firm of chartered certified accountants and taxation advisors with offices in Witney and Oxford. Peter can be contacted at p.smith@theMgroup.co.uk if you would like to discuss your tax affairs or for more information please contact The MGroup on (Oxford) 01865 552925 or (Witney) 01993 776476.

Disclaimer: This summary is prepared for initial information only , and professional advice should be sought before acting on any points herein. No responsibility can be accepted for loss occasioned to any person as a result of action taken or refrained from as a result of these contents.

ENTERTAINMENT

Fri, Apr 21 – Sat, Apr 22
New Theatre, Oxford
THE FIRST HIPPO ON THE MOON
From Number One bestselling children's author David Walliams comes an explosively funny space adventure for children of 3 and up. Two big hippos. One enormous dream. Who can make it to the moon first?

Tue, Apr 25, 7.30pm
New Theatre, Oxford
YAMOTO DRUMMERS
Following their hugely successful tour in 2015, the Yamato Drummers are back in the UK by popular demand. Their acclaimed performances of Japanese Taiko drumming and music have captivated audiences of over 6 million people in 53 countries across the globe.

Fri, Apr 28, 7pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
TINARIWEN
Grammy Award-winning Tinariwen will be returning to O2 Academy Oxford in spring. The Malian guitar heroes, influenced by American blues and the likes of Jimi Hendrix, were discovered in the 90's. They travelled the world with their songs - charged with poetry and aching beauty.

Mon, May 8, 7.30pm
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
Acclaimed stars of the West End stage, the Reduced Shakespeare Company are back with another barnstormingly irreverent and breathtakingly hilarious celebration of our cultural heritage – as seen through the eyes of three Americans wearing trainers.

Wed, May 10, 8pm
New Theatre, Oxford
RUSSELL BRAND – RE: BIRTH
Following a series of sold-out

COMEDY

preview shows, Russell Brand is coming to a venue near you as part of his new stand-up tour of the UK and Ireland.

Sat, May 13, 11pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
THE OXFORD SOUL TRAIN
Welcome aboard The Oxford Soul Train. A night train taking you on an uplifting journey filled with funk, soul, disco and motown classics, leading you along the tracks and grooves with those licks of hard hitting horns, punchy rhythms and storming beats!

Sun, May 14, 7.30pm
New Theatre, Oxford
PAUL RODGERS
Paul Rodgers legendary singer, songwriter and frontman for Free, Bad Company and The Firm has announced that he will be heading out across the UK this May on the FREE Spirit Tour performing songs strictly from the Free catalogue.

Thu, May 16, 7pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
THE COMET IS COMING
The Comet Is Coming support their Mercury-nominated debut album, Channel the Spirits. The band's intoxicating sound fuses elements of jazz, funk, electronica and psychedelic rock.

Thu, May 18, 7pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
THE MISSION
The Mission embark on a UK tour in support of their new studio album, Another Fall From Grace.

Thu, May 25, 8pm
The Beacon, Wantage,
AN EVENING WITH PAUL MERSON
Enjoy a night with former England, Arsenal and Aston Villa legendary midfielder, manager and Sky Sports pundit Paul Merson.

Sat, May 27, 6.30pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
NOVANA – A TRIBUTE TO NIRVANA
Novana is the UK's recreation of the legendary Nirvana. Not only do they look the part, but with an entire set filled with the finest of grunge, Novana is the band to see if you missed out on the real thing. Expect classics like 'Come As You Are' and 'Lithium' and many more. If you're looking for a 90s revival, look no further.

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AutoWeekly
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By **Tony Yates**

WE all know that the original Range Rover is the best 4x4 on the market and it has been this way for many years.

But as a motoring journalist this does tend to cause me a bit of a problem every time I test a newer version of this incredible machine. Because I always end up writing the same final sentence that I did when I tested the previous model – 'the Range Rover is utterly brilliant in every single way'.

Now, I know you won't all agree because over the last few years, we have been constantly banging on about saving the planet so much that suddenly everybody is wanting something a little bit smaller and economical.

So, for all you people who don't want a full size Range Rover, but instead want something a little bit smaller, then you are in luck because this week I just happen to be testing the Evoque HSE Dynamic.

Power and Efficiency

My test car was fitted with a brilliant 180HP 2.0L TD4 diesel engine and a 9-speed automatic transmission. It has 430Nm of torque, more than enough grunt to pretty much pull anything that takes your fancy.

Fuel consumption is also good, achieving around 49mpg. Flat out you can expect a maximum speed of 121mph and a 0-62 time of around 9.7sec.

For those of you who are all about emissions, the Evoque easily comes in at around 149g/km, which will help you save a few more pennies in road tax.

On & Off-Road

The Evoque does off-road brilliantly! No matter how rubbish you are on the muddy stuff it just keeps going.

All you really have to do is arrive at a muddy field, press a few buttons and off you go. It really is that simple. It's the same when you have the Evoque on the tarmac too.

On the road, the Evoque is a peach to drive. There is plenty of feedback through the wheel, and with those 20-inch wheels it is glued firmly to the road without impacting on ride comfort or overall refinement.

As I said, it's just brilliant.

Safety and Technology

The Evoque HSE also comes with a host of significantly enhanced features including xenon headlamps, heated windscreen, rain-sensing windscreen wipers, front and rear parking sensors, In Control touch navigation with 10.2-inch touchscreen, DAB radio, Meridian 10-speaker sound system, lane departure warning and rear view camera.

There are side curtain, driver and front passenger airbags, autonomous emergency braking, terrain response, hill descent sontrol and dynamic stability control.

As for the interior, you get nearly everything you would expect from a full size Range Rover inside the Evoque – such as comfortable and luxurious seating as well as an interior made from some of the finest quality materials that you just wouldn't find in a normal car.

To Sum Up

The Range Rover Evoque is utterly brilliant in every single way. Price from: £43,200 OTR

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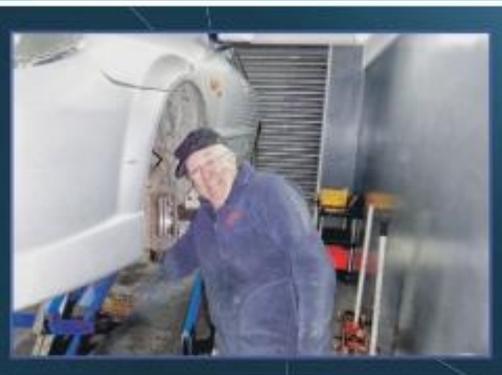

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This gas is compulsory for new cars from 2013 all be it has been around since 2010, although some manufacturers are still refusing to use this, notably Mercedes who are not happy with the flammable nature of the gas, which in turn means not many companies offer the re-gassing service for cars using r1234yf. But due to the amount of cars we sell we have needed to be able have this service onsite so we can now offer this service to our customers.

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Renault Laguna 1.8 Sports Tourer Estate

Year: 2002
Miles: 18,500
MOT: June 2017
Colour: Almond Green
Price: £3500

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23.03.17

Kia Rio Automatic

Year: 2003
Miles: 66,000
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Colour: Met Red
Price: £595

Kia Rio 1.3 lx 5 Door Hatch, PAS, EW, CL, CD Player, service history, very clean for year. 07833 160856

SB38027 / 30.3.17

Mazda MX-5 1.8

Year: 2004
Miles: 66,300
Colour: Silver
MOT: August 2017
Price: £2,595 ono

One lady owner with FSH (12 stamps in the service book) lots of receipts. Silver with black hood. PAS, EW, EM, Airbags, original R/C player, 5 spd. Recent work includes two new tyres, full vehicle inspection and a fortron engine flush. Cam-belt changed in Aug 2015. Body and hood in good condition. Tonneau cover and full outdoor MX 5 cover included. Two keys, V5 present. Tel. 01296 698535 or 07788 211644

Chevrolet Aveo

Year: 2009
Miles: 60,200
MOT: Mar 2018
Colour: Dark Blue
Price: £1,395 ono

Chevrolet Aveo 1.4 Petrol 5 Door Hatchback Metallic Blue. Remote central locking with alarm, Air Con, Alloys, CD/Radio player, 4 electric windows, electric mirrors, 5 Speed, PAS, front fog lights. Drives well. Please call 01235 516902

30.3.17

Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 TD ecoFLEX 16v Exclusiv

Year: 2012
Miles: 72,800
Colour: Silver
MOT: May 2017
Price: £4,695 ono

7 SEATER ESTATE, 5 dr. Only One Owner with Service History (3 stamps) and service print out. Air con, ABS, Cruise, Traction control, Remote/Alarm, airbags, electric front windows & mirrors. Lovely condition inside and out drives really well.
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Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi ecoFlex Exclusive

Year: 2012
Miles: 49,500
MOT: Aug 2017
Colour: Met Black
Price: £5,695 ono

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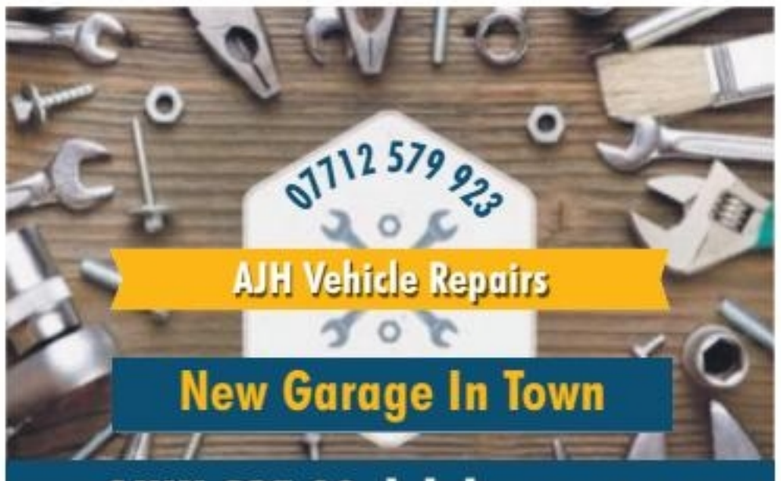

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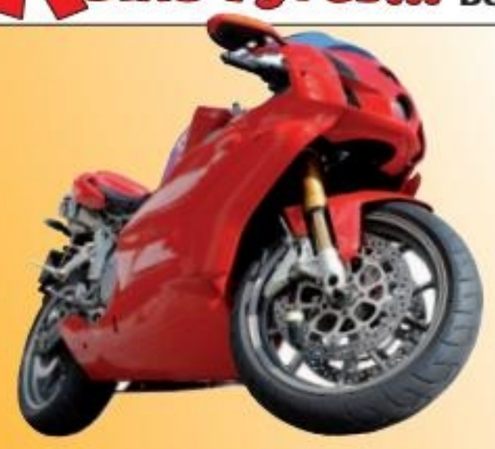

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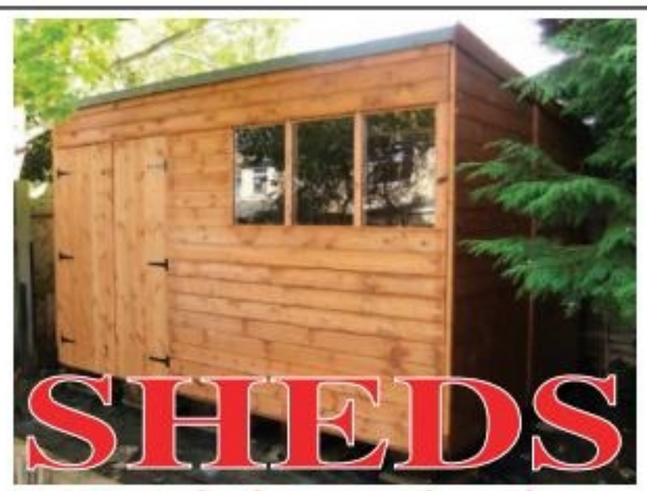

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'Disappointed' Haas out as Grosjean car springs a leak

F1

THERE was disappointment for Banbury-based Haas in Sunday's Australian Grand Prix as Romain Grosjean missed out on a likely seventh place finish.

Grosjean was forced out with a water leak after 13 laps. He had shown promising pace all weekend and was in a comfortable seventh place at the time of the failure.

He said: "I suddenly lost a lot of power, then the next thing I knew I had to slow down the car.

"It's a pretty disappointing result. However I felt I was faster than the Williams (of Massa in sixth), so there's huge potential in the car."

Kevin Magnussen had a tougher afternoon, after colliding with Marcus Ericsson's Sauber on lap one and suffering damage to the car, before he too retired with a suspension issue towards the end.

Enstone-based Renault also failed to get any points out of Sunday's race, with Nico Hulkenberg just missing out in 11th place.

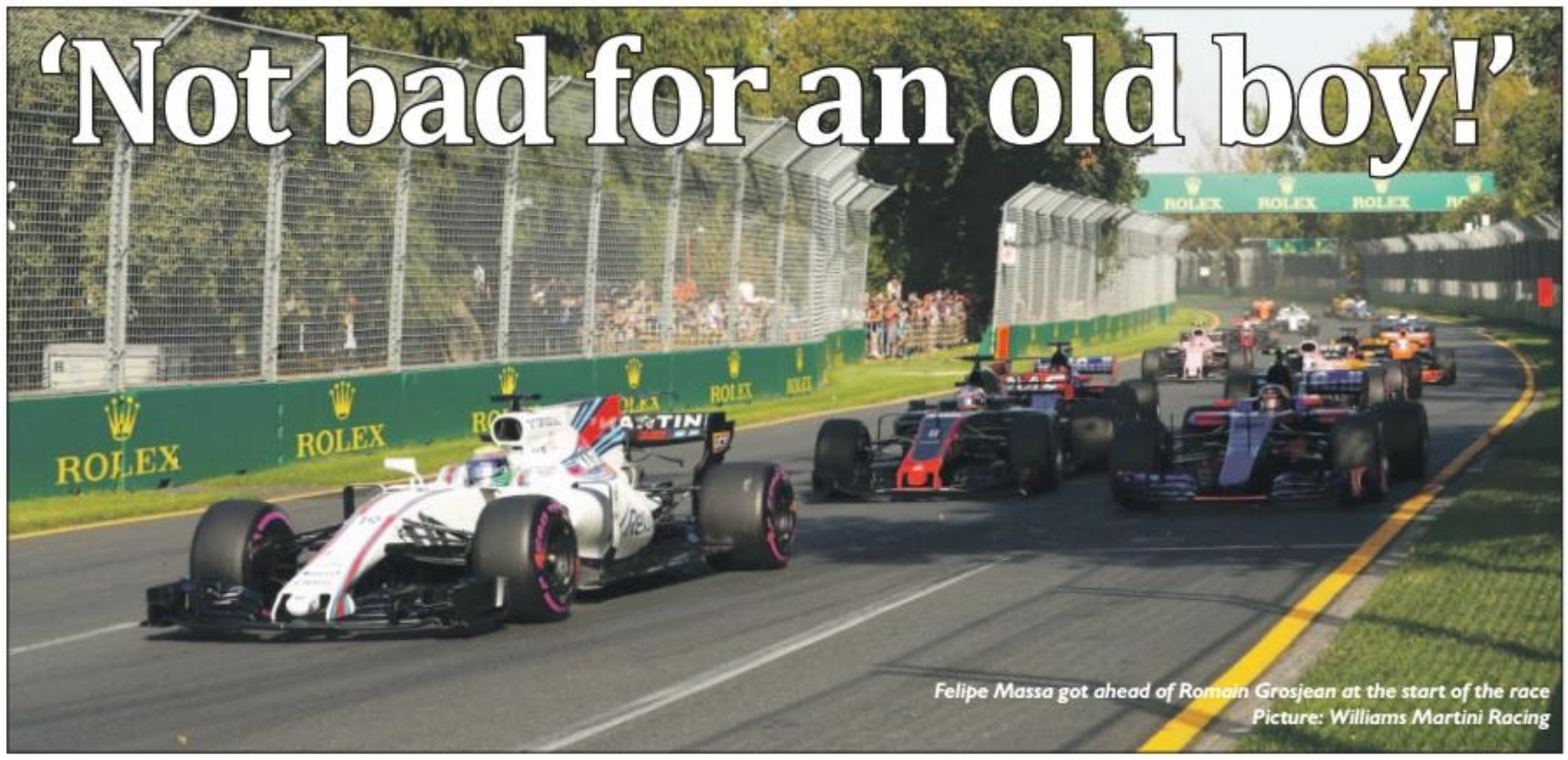
Hulkenberg started 11th but lost ground at the start and despite a memorable battle with Fernando Alonso's McLaren and Esteban Ocon's Force India for the final point wasn't able to break into the top 10.

Starting at the back, Jolyon Palmer made up four places off the start but a brake issue saw him retire on lap 15.

Renault managing director Cyril Abiteboul said: "Our race result highlights that we were not as well prepared as our opposition.

"We needed to be stronger at the start, in our execution of strategy, in our pitstops and with our car set-up and balance."

'Not bad for an old boy!'



Felipe Massa got ahead of Romain Grosjean at the start of the race Picture: Williams Martini Racing

F1

By Adam Flinn

DESPITE not expecting to be on the grid in 2017, Felipe Massa put in an impressive performance to come home sixth for Williams in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Sunday.

Massa was the only representative from Oxfordshire's three teams to finish in the points in Melbourne, just months after coming out of retirement to replace Valtteri Bottas. Starting seventh, Massa made a good start to jump ahead of Romain Grosjean in the Haas.

From then on the Brazilian produced a solid drive to hold on to the position, although the Williams was no match for the Mercedes, Ferraris and Red Bull ahead.

He eventually finished 83 seconds behind race winner Sebastian Vettel, although he was the only man outside the top three teams to finish on the lead lap.

"It was definitely a good race," said Massa. "I knew the most important thing for me was to overtake Grosjean at the start, because the competition was looking more with him than with the other guys in front.

"I was so happy with the whole race – the way I was managing the tyres, the consistency, the work from the whole team, the pitstop, everything worked really well. Not bad for an old boy!"

His team-mate Lance Stroll had a tougher weekend on his Formula One debut and was forced to retire with a brake failure.

A crash in third practice and a disappointing qualifying session left him 19th on the grid, although he had made his way up to 13th before stopping.

Stroll said: "We had what I believe was a brake disc failure. I just hit the pedal, it went long and I was lucky it was in a place where there was a lot of run-off.

"Unfortunately the incident on Saturday cost us a lot of positions in qualifying, but I enjoyed myself and so a big thank you to the team."

Round two of the season is the Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai on April 9.

Teams prepare to dip their oars in the 163rd boat race

The Boat Race

OXFORD and Cambridge are ready to take to the Thames once more in the 2017 Boat Race.

The two universities will row along the London river for the 163rd time in one of British sport's most iconic events this Saturday.

Oxford men will be out for revenge after they were edged out by the Light Blues last year, who stretched their lead to 82-79.

Meanwhile, Oxford's women will be looking to defend their title after winning the 2016 race, in which the Cambridge boat nearly sank in the rough conditions. Oxford women trail their Cambridge counterparts 41-30.

The big off is at 5.35pm on Sunday, with the women's race starting an hour earlier. The action can be caught on BBC One.

Smith pleased with team debut

MotoGP

RED Bull KTM completed their MotoGP debut unscathed as riders battled the elements in Qatar on Sunday night.

Rain, delays, uncertainty and a decision for a slightly shortened race distance prefaced the 20 laps that then blew the drama out the water – MotoGP is back for 2017.

Both Oxford biker Bradley Smith (17th) and teammate Pol Espargaro (16th) were just happy to survive KTM's first ever race, as five other riders fell victim to the heavy rain and treacherous conditions.

Smith, who was 10 seconds off the points and 0.1 seconds behind Espargaro, was satisfied with his side's season opener.

He said: "The lap times and the gap to the front guys were better than we expected, and in those conditions we saw a lot of guys making mistakes so we're very pleased today.

"In general, we did the best we could and we'll see what happens in Argentina [on April 9]."

Smith also underlined that the weekend had produced a lot of important data for the team to study intensively ahead of the next race.

Bradley Smith in action *Picture: Gold and Goose*

Mike Leitner, KTM MotoGP team manager, added: "We are super happy. It was very important that both riders finished this race.

"We showed what a big step this is for our company. Everyone has been working very hard and this is the result.

"We had no technical problems or issues in any of the sessions, or in the race and this is super good.

"The lap times in the race were really impressive and we didn't expect that."

Pit Beirer, KTM motorsport director, said: "It was such a unique moment for our company.

"This team is so amazing. We have been together for such a short time.

We started from zero, with a blank piece of paper, and everyone has done an amazing job."

After stealing the headlines throughout pre-season, Maverick Viñales (Movistar Yamaha MotoGP) retained them after his first win for Yamaha.

Emotional for Green

Ice Hockey

LEGEND Alan Green (pictured) left the ice for the final time after Oxford City Stars' season came to a premature end in the quarter-final of the English National Ice Hockey League South Division 1 play-offs last weekend.

Green grabbed an assist in both legs of the Stars' 11-3 aggregate defeat to London Raiders, who will face Chelmsford Chieftains in the semi-final this weekend.

Oxford remained in the tie after losing 4-2 in London on Saturday but crashed out of the play-offs the following day after a 7-1 hammering at Oxford Ice Ring.

Things had started fantastically for Simon Anderson's side who bulldozed their way to an eighth minute 2-0 lead through a pair of Jason Ikin and Joshua Oliver goals.

But the Raiders, inspired by hat-trick hero Jake Pitchley, struck back with doubles in the second and third periods to earn a 4-2 first-leg lead.

There was to be no reprieve for the Stars who conceded seven goals in the return fixture.

Marek Nahlik was the hat-trick hero this time as Pitchley could only manage a brace. Andrew Munroe and Stewart Tait added the gloss as the London side scored 11 unanswered goals.

Dominic Hopkins managed a consolation in the closing stages but it was not the way Green wanted to bow out.

Nevertheless, the club legend departed to an emotional farewell.

Green played over 200 games for the Stars in multiple spells stretching back to 2005 and amassed more than 350 points in the process.

He also played at Swindon, Slough and Chelmsford, but spent the majority of his career at Oxpens Road.

Most notably, the forward was part of the Stars renaissance when they won the NIHL Division Two Championship in 2013 and the league and cup double, a season later in 2014.

Jones staying positive

Oxford City

By George Welch

Defender Lee Henderson mid-flight. Picture: Michael Allen

A LIVELY first half performance was not enough for Oxford City as they were narrowly beaten by play-off contenders Poole Town.

Boss Mark Jones continues to take the positives, despite suffering three consecutive defeats that have seen them edge back towards the National League South trapdoor.

Luke Roberts's 77th minute header was all it took to seal the three points for Town at Court Place Farm.

The goal provided a rare highlight in an otherwise flat second half with both sides wasteful in possession.

The first half saw young and energetic striker Ezra Forde, towering defender Lee Henderson and Matt Peake-Pijnen all test Nick Hutchings in the Poole goal, ensuring he was the busier of the two keepers.

But a balanced second half tipped in Poole's favour with 13 minutes to go when an angled cross from the left wing found Roberts on the corner of the six yard box to head across goal and beat Craig Hill.

City huffed and puffed in the final minutes but failed to prevent their first home defeat under Jones since he took charge in December.

The City boss recruited three players following last week's humiliating 6-1 defeat at Maidenhead United and he admitted he was encouraged by his side's control of the match, despite defeat.

Defenders George Essuman (loan, Dover Athletic) and Guri Demuria (Beaconsfield SYCOB) signed alongside midfielder Connor Furlong (loan, MK Dons). Steph Ngamvoulou has been released after being informed he isn't seen as part of Jones' plans.

After the match Jones said: "Overall it was a frustrating afternoon.

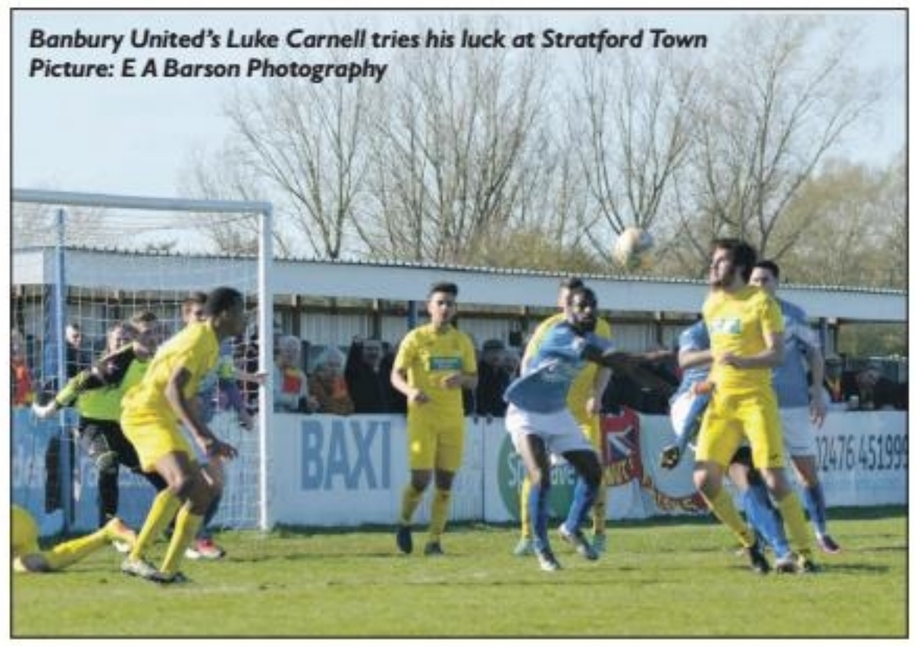
"I thought there were lots of positives from our play – it was a much better performance than Maidenhead in the week – and I felt that we were always fairly in control of the game.

"Second half there was about half an hour where we were well on top and pushing hard. What we needed to do was score in that time but we couldn't find that goal.

"But still there were lots of positives. It's so much better than what we produced on Tuesday night [against Maidenhead] and now we go into a huge game against Bishop's Stortford.

"I can't fault the lads' effort or their attitude, we just unfortunately lacked that little bit of quality in the final third when it really matters."

City are nine points above the National League South drop zone with six games remaining. They travel to second bottom Bishop's Stortford on Saturday.



Banbury United's Luke Carnell tries his luck at Stratford Town Picture: E A Barson Photography

Setback for play-off hopes

Banbury United

THE play-off ambitions of Banbury United suffered a huge setback as they went down 2-0 at Stratford Town on Saturday.

The Puritans trailed early on and there was no way back when the hosts scored a second four minutes before half time, despite Banbury having the better of the first half.

United got off to the worst possible start when they fell behind in the sixth minute after a low cross from the by-line by Mike Taylor was struck home at the near post by Will Grocott.

Banbury were unable to create clear opportunities and three minutes from half time they fell further behind when Taylor tapped home a free kick from the right from close range.

Town could have been out of sight before half time but Jack Harding was equal to a Taylor header.

The north Oxfordshire side dominated much of the second half too, with Manny Duku, Conor McDonagh, Marvin Martin and Luke Carnell all threatening the visiting sticks.

But the best chance of the afternoon for Banbury was squandered when Ricky Johnson fired an 82nd minute penalty straight at the legs of Town keeper Niall Cooper.

The home side comfortably saw out the final minutes to bring an abrupt end to Mike Ford's side's five match winning streak.

United, three points off the play-offs with five matches remaining, play their third away match in a row when they travel to struggling Hayes & Yeading United on Saturday.

Kiddy steal it with goal in 90th minute

Kidlington

IT was back to winning ways for Kidlington who bounced back from a two-match blip to beat Northwood 2-1 at Yarnton Road.

The Greens had to wait until the second half for their goals to put their previous two matches – a draw and a defeat – to the back of their mind.

There were chances at both ends in the first half, with the best falling for Kiddy's Mark Janes, but the forward fluffed his lines from close range and the ball was blasted over the bar.

The game remained goalless until the 67th minute when Tommy Castle powered a header home from a Lewis Coyle corner.

Kidlington had the wind in their sails and only a brilliant save from Wood keeper Borja Loeches-Teixeira prevented Jack Dunmall making it 2–0 five minutes later.

Coyle tested Loeches-Teixeira from 25 yards but it was Northwood who struck next as a deflected shot from Malachy McGovern spun into the net to level the scores with five minutes to go.

Kiddy threw everything at their visitors in search of a winner and they were rewarded on 90 minutes when Jack Dunmall flicked the ball over his shoulder towards goal.

The ball nestled in the net and the Greens held on in stoppage time to pinch the three points.

Julian McCalmon's side travel to Egham Town on Saturday looking for their eighth win in 10 matches.

Leigh bring home the cream from Devon

North Leigh

NORTH Leigh made the longest trip of their season to Bideford, north Devon, on Saturday and the travelling side did not disappoint, winning 2-0.

Wayne Turk sealed the win just before the first half wrapped up after converting from a Michael Hopkins cross on the left.

Earlier, Malachi Napa scored with a powerful right foot from close range after Lance Williams' penalty was saved by Joe Tickle.

The home side applied the early pressure with two corners that were cleared with difficulty and Lewis Clayton was forced into an early save from Bideford captain Matty Bye.

In the second half, Bideford came back again on the North Leigh goal but the whole of the away side's defence locked up and kept the ball out of the penalty area.

However, the travelling side could not find a way to break down the Bideford goal any further and came away with a 2-0 victory.

The Millers continued their fine form with a late win at Bishops Cleeve on Tuesday night in a feisty affair.

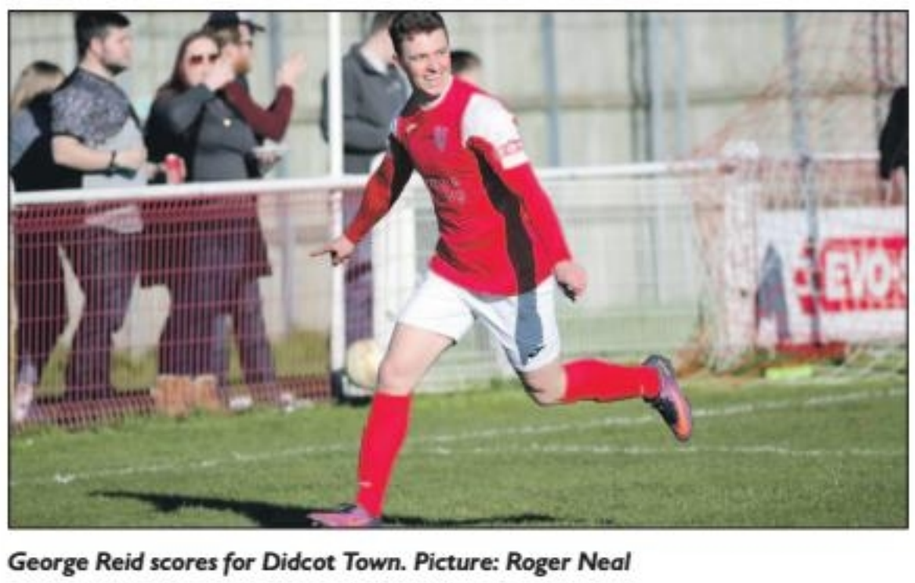
Trailing to a 44th minute Jacob Davidge goal, Leigh boss John Brough threw on Jamie Cook with eight minutes remaining to turn the game on its head and secure their third win on the bounce.

Cleeve held firm until Cook was introduced and the former Oxford United forward converted two penalties in the final stages.

The 37-year-old scored the first spot-kick after Chris Pates handled in the area when trying to clear a corner.

And the striker made no mistake with his second penalty following a stoppage time trip by Jack Horrell on Leigh top scorer George Seacole.

It was an ill-tempered contest throughout, with several altercations during and after the match and the managers nearly came to blows on the pitch after the full time whistle.



George Reid scores for Didcot Town. Picture: Roger Neal

Late strike stuns Didcot

Didcot Town

A BUMPER crowd witnessed Didcot Town's torrid 2017 continue as the Railwaymen slumped to their 15th defeat of the season when Yate Town scored two extraordinary strikes in the closing stages.

For the most part it was easy to see why the two teams had aggregated three wins in 25 attempts this calendar year following an insipid first half.

It appeared that a George Reid strike had snaffled a second successive home win for Diddy until the match turned on its head in the closing stages.

Town were unable to double their advantage and were punished 10 minutes from time when Lewis Fogg's 25-yard strike put Yate level.

The visitors stole the three points in stoppage time with a smash and grab when a remarkable 60-yard free-kick from Mike Baker looped over the Diddy keeper and into back of the net.

Didcot saw an increased attendance as they invited supporters to pay what they wanted.

The crowd of 178 was a sharp increase on this season's attendances as an international break saw fans come down to The Draycott Engineering Loop Meadow Stadium.

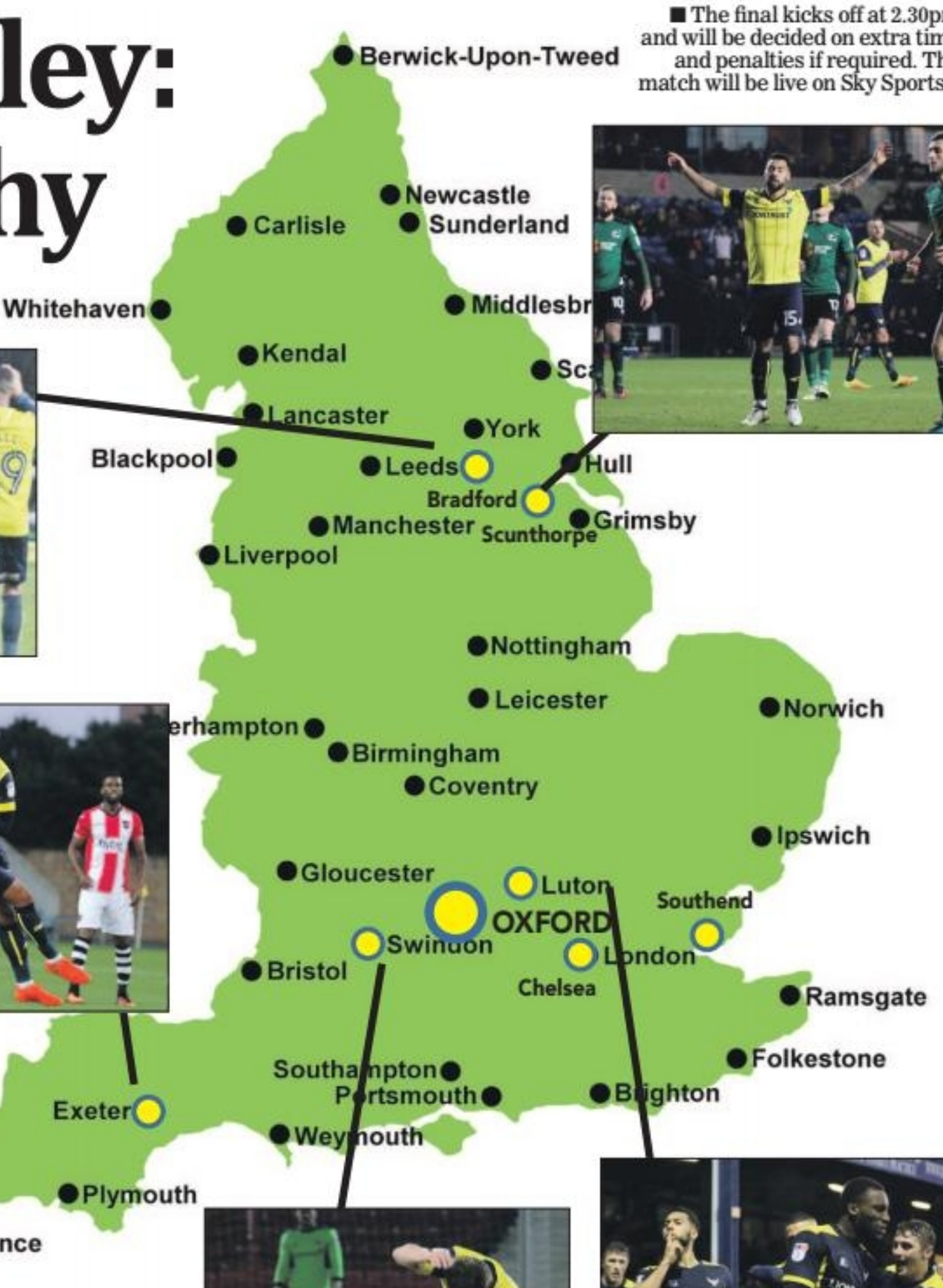
The club also welcomed supporter Kelly Marie Hodson who is running the London Marathon on behalf of Barnardos and raised £65 at the game for the children's charity.

In total, £508 was raised at Didcot games this year for Kelly's marathon.

The Railwaymen, who have slipped to 15th in the Southern League Division South & West, travel to basement club Bridgwater on Saturday.

The road to Wembley: Checkatrade Trophy

■ The final kicks off at 2.30pm and will be decided on extra time and penalties if required. The match will be live on Sky Sports 3



Group match 1:
Oxford 2-1 Exeter City
August 30

Oxford United started their Checkatrade Trophy campaign with a 4-2 win against League Two Exeter City – but the low attendance was the real talking point.

The 1,575 hardy souls – including 98 from Exeter – who did turn up was the third lowest at the Kassam Stadium in its competitive history.

Supporters across the country voted with their feet after Under-23 sides from the Premier League and Championship were allowed to take on League One and Two teams in the revamped lower league trophy for the first time.

On the pitch, goals from West Brom loanee Tyler Roberts [he returned at the end of December], Chris Maguire (p), Ryan Taylor [who left in January] and Alex MacDonald [also left in January] secured United's first Trophy points.

Group match 2:
Swindon Town p0-0 Oxford
October 4

Ten-man United extended their unbeaten run against their most hated rivals Swindon Town with this stalemate in October.

Although winger Alex MacDonald received a red card just before half time, Michael Appleton's men held out for a 0-0 draw in normal time, meaning, not for the last time, the U's faced a penalty shootout.

Ryan Taylor was the only United player to convert from the spot as the U's lost 3-1 on penalties.

In the new competition format, Oxford received a point for the shootout defeat while Swindon collected two points for winning.

It was the only game en route to the final the Yellows fired a blank.

Group match 3:
Chelsea U23 1-1p Oxford
November 8

The first hurdle to jump on the road to Wembley was cleared at Stamford Bridge against a Chelsea development side.

Appleton's side cemented their place in round two, or the round of 32, with a point in a 1-1 draw – and they made history on the way.

A last-gasp Kane Hemmings goal cancelled out a Josi Quintero first half strike to force penalties before Oxford and Chelsea embarked on the longest penalty shootout in English football history.

Despite the spot-kicks being redundant with the point taking United through while Chelsea were already knocked out, a total of 34 penalties were taken as Chelsea eventually came out victorious in a 13-12 win.

Wes Thomas, who failed to score both his shoot-out efforts, missed the decisive 34th penalty.

Round of 32, Southern Section:
Southend United 1-1p Oxford
December 6

The first knockout stage saw the U's face their third shootout of the competition as they squeezed past Southend United at Roots Hall.

Maguire looked to have won it for the U's when he scored nine minutes from time with a spectacular 30-yard free kick.

But an Anthony Wordsworth equaliser five minutes later forced another penalty shootout.

Having lost the previous two shootouts, it proved third time lucky for the U's as 17-year-old Roberts kept his cool to secure a 4-3 win. It was to be his last goal for the club before returning to his parent club in January.

Round of 16:
Oxford 4-1 Scunthorpe United
January 10

Hemmings was the hat-trick hero as United swept aside the Iron, who have been ahead of Oxford and in the League One promotion fray for the season's entirety.

The visitors took the lead through an 11th minute Luke Williams penalty, but Hemmings' first hat-trick for the club fired United into the last eight once Marvin Johnson equalised.

But enthusiasm for the competition remained uninspiring as both sides made multiple changes from the previous league match and the game was played out in front of less than 1,400 fans.

Only one development side from the top two divisions – Swansea City – survived to the last eight.

Quarter-final:
Oxford 2-1 Bradford
January 31

The enticing scent of Wembley got stronger when another League One promotion hopeful fell victim to Appleton's irresistible U's.

A Maguire penalty and a spectacular Johnson strike separated by two second half minutes secured United's passage into the semi-final in the same week Championship leaders Newcastle United were brushed aside in the FA Cup third round, also at the Kassam.

A looping header from Bradford's on-loan forward Jordy Hiwula five minutes from time caused late nerves, but United held on.

Maguire made no mistake from 12-yards after Rob Hall was felled in the box on 53 minutes and, just two minutes later, Johnson scored arguably the best goal of his career when he fired an unstoppable thunderbolt from 30 yards beyond Rouven Sattlemaier in the Bradford goal.

Semi-final:
Luton Town 2-3 Oxford
March 1

For just the second time in the competition, the Yellows faced a League Two club, with high-flying Luton Town the final obstacle in the way of another Wembley appearance.

Unlike the old format, the Checkatrade Trophy semi-final is decided on the night and not over two legs.

And in front of the highest Trophy attendance of United's campaign, it looked like the visitors would make easy work of their accommodating hosts, boasting a 2-0 lead heading into the final 20 minutes.

Phil Edwards (10) and a Paul Ruddock own goal (69) gave them that advantage and U's fans were ready to book their train tickets to Wembley.

But the 6,900-strong crowd were entertained with an impressive fight back when Isaac Vassell (72) and former U Danny Hylton (82) breached the wall that is Simon Eastwood to claw the Hatters back into the match.

Step up, marvellous Marvin Johnson.

United retaliated instantly as the winger-turned-left-back-turned-striker scored the winner with a magnificent left-footed 20-yard curler with five minutes to go to cause pandemonium in the away end – the U's are returning to Wembley.

(p in scoreline indicates a win on penalties)

Eastwood saves the day in goalless draw

SIMON Eastwood saved a second half penalty as Oxford United gained ground on the SkyBet League One play-offs with a 0-0 draw at Northampton Town on Saturday.

The U's stopper atoned for his error after he brought down winger Paul Anderson five minutes after the restart by diving low to his left and tipping veteran Matt Taylor's spot-kick on to the woodwork.

The former Portsmouth and Blackburn keeper, who has played every minute of the U's campaign, picked up a yellow card for his clumsy challenge, but his vital penalty save helped him on the way to his 19th clean sheet of the season.

Former Manchester United youngster Joe Rothwell, who scored his first league goal for the U's against Bury on Tuesday, nearly snatched a winner late on as his shot was touched on to the crossbar by goalkeeper Adam Smith.

The home side's number 1 put in a fine shift of his own in the Cobblers goal to deny Kane Hemmings from close range as the clock ticked down.

There was scant goalmouth action in a scrappy first half but Northampton's Keshi Anderson and Marc Richards, who had struck winners in the previous two meetings, both threatened Eastwood's goal.

There wasn't much for the 1,400 travelling fans to get excited about at the other end and it took until midway through the first half to muster an effort at goal, Conor McAleny firing wide from 25-yards.

Goal-scoring full back Phil Edwards forced Smith into a routine save with a hooked left footed as the 31-year-old hunted his fifth of the season just before half time.

Into the second half and Liam Sercombe wasted an effort from eight yards just a minute before Taylor missed an even better opportunity for the hosts from the spot on 51 minutes.

The Cobblers still sensed a breakthrough after Eastwood's superb penalty save, but Richards fired into the side-netting.

United had the best chances of the closing stages as Rothwell, who found himself with a surprising amount of space in the box, struck the bar with 10 minutes remaining before Hemmings fired straight at the legs of Smith when he should have scored.

It was the last chance of the game, which saw the U's pick up their first and only point of the season against the three other promoted teams from League Two last year.

Super shot stopper Simon Eastwood

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United warm-up for Wembley with a five-star performance

By George Welch

THERE were no signs of cup final distractions as a ruthless Oxford United, inspired by hat-trick hero Conor McAleny, thumped Bury 5-1 on Tuesday night.

The Kassam crowd were treated to the perfect Wembley warm-up with a game full of goals and a win that edges their team closer to the League One play-offs.

McAleny struck his hat-trick after Marvin Johnson and Joe Rothwell had put the home side firmly in charge.

The U's fans were delighted with what they saw as they get ready to travel to Wembley for the second successive year for the Checkatrade Trophy final on Sunday – and their team was at it from the off against Bury.

United were too strong in a terrific first half that will have had watching Coventry City boss Mark Robins filling his notepad.

McAleny had the first sniff of goal within five minutes when he screwed a shot wide after neat passing play between Marvin Johnson and Joe Rothwell.

But it was just the start of a memorable evening for the on-loan Everton forward, who recorded his second Oxford hat-trick.

The riot began on 11 minutes when the Bury defence backed off Johnson who, running at pace from 30-yards, sprinted into the box and fired his angled drive into the bottom corner to give the U's the lead.

Johnson was almost unplayable and saw a 20th-minute shot saved by Joe Murphy when he let fly from 25 yards.

The 26-year-old then played a big part in Oxford's second goal on 35 minutes when his through ball forced a poor touch from Murphy, whose heavy-legged effort fell straight to Rothwell.

With a cool head, the former Manchester United youngster took a touch and clipped the ball into an unguarded net for his first league goal for the club.

Conor McAleny evades Jacob Mellis to score his second goal

All pictures: Steve Daniels

United were in rampant mood and extended their lead four minutes later.

The tricky Rob Hall crossed from the by-line for McAleny, who got ahead of his marker for his first of the night to give the Yellows a 3-0 half-time lead.

And Bury, who were toothless in attack and non-existent in defence, were buried four minutes after the restart.

The away side's defence retreated almost all the way back to Greater Manchester to allow McAleny space to drive low into the bottom left hand corner.

United took their foot off the pedal after that and afforded too much space to former Premier League striker James Vaughan.

The Premier League's youngest ever goal scorer took advantage with a thumping header from a corner to make it 4-1 on the hour.

Hall and subs Toni Martinez and Liam Sercombe had further efforts at goal but it was largely academic by then.

McAleny capped a fine evening's work when the 24-year-old tucked home Martinez's cross in injury time for his eighth goal for Oxford for since joining in January.

Next stop Wembley for the U's.

Right, Joe Rothwell keeps a cool head to give the U's their second

Deserved nomination for 'mature' youngster

ENGLAND Under-20 international Ryan Ledson has been shortlisted for the EFL Young Player of the Year Award.

The midfielder, who will be available for selection for Sunday's Checkatrade Trophy final after representing his country in a mini three-match tournament, has had a successful first full season in league football.

The 19-year-old made the national top three and will compete with John Swift (Reading) and Ollie Watkins (Exeter City) for the prestigious award.

Previous winners of the honour, for which any English Football League player could be nominated for, include Gareth Bale, Nathaniel Clyne and Dele Alli.

United head coach Michael Appleton said: "It's fantastic for Ryan and fully deserved.

"He is only 19 but plays with great maturity and it is a great honour for the whole club to see his name shortlisted."

The scouser, who has scored once in 28 U's appearances, started in England's 1-0 win over hosts France on Saturday. He was in the squad for Tuesday night's game against Senegal.

The annual awards take place in London on April 9.

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